

Orme in 'frank discussion' with MacGregor in bid to break pit deadlock

Mr Stanley Orme, Opposition energy spokesman, held what he termed a "full and frank discussion" with Mr Ian MacGregor, the National Coal Board chairman, yesterday in an attempt to break the deadlock of the miners' strike. Mr Orme and Mr MacGregor met at NCB headquarters in London for a 65-minute session described as "talks about talks".

Mr Orme, who met Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' union president last Wednesday, said after yesterday's meeting that he planned to seek a further meeting with Mr Scargill soon.

He said: "We have just talked to Mr MacGregor to see if we can assist in any way in bringing this dispute to a conclusion. We were not here to negotiate but to create a basis from which negotiations could take place."

He said: "It was a full and frank discussion and we are hopeful that we can now create a basis for discussion between the two sides despite the extreme delicacy."

Mr Orme, who was accompanied at the meeting by



Mr Orme: Talks about talks.

Mr Ted Rowlands, Opposition spokesman on coal, said: "I do not underestimate the problems we face, but, however difficult the situation is, it is not impossible."

"It will be resolved eventually by discussion. We want this discussion to take place. I am hoping to be the catalyst in setting up the meeting."

Mr Orme said he had "no

magic formula" to break the deadlock of the dispute - now in its eleventh week. But he said that Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy, "should be playing some part in this. If he is not prepared to do it then I shall continue with my endeavours."

Mr Orme declined to go into detail on specific subjects discussed with Mr MacGregor. "Anything we said about exactly how we shall be trying to set up a basis for discussion must remain a confidential between ourselves and Mr MacGregor," he said.

● The coal board reported the first indications of miners returning to work in strike-bound north Derbyshire yesterday three days after Mr Keo Moses, the area director, warned that those who continued to stay away would lose about £150 in holiday pay for the bank holiday week. (Craig Seton writes)

Eight of the nine collieries in the area have been at a standstill but yesterday 40 men reported for work for the first time since the strike began at five collieries work shops and transport depots.

In Staffordshire three pits were producing coal normally and three others were in partial production. About 3,000 miners - compared with 4,500 in normal circumstances - turned up for work on the morning shift.

In Warwickshire, the police have installed a hotline to enable people complaining of intimidation to give information in confidence.

● A striking Scottish miner was recovering in hospital yesterday after nailing himself to the floor of his home to protest at colleagues still working in other parts of the country.

Mr Abraham Moffat, aged 50, spent more than 24 hours nailed to the floor. He ended his protest after talking to Scottish miners' leader, Mr Mick McGahey.

Police were alerted when neighbours heard screams coming from Mr Moffat's home at Dalkeith, near Edinburgh.

Pickets thwart Welsh return-to-work attempt

From Tim Jones, Llanelli

As the man made a determined effort to drive into the colliery pickets pounced and kicked his car. A police inspector who asked them to allow the driver through was told that he would not be allowed to pass.

Mr Tony Ciano, the lodge chairman said: "We are not allowing scabs in. If the police walk you in, then God help you, you bastard."

Other men who arrived by car and tried to get in were told they would require a permanent police protection if they succeeded. Eventually there were 11 policemen at the pit but they did not attempt to hold back the pickets.

The pickets later went to the home of Mr Tony Hollman, the former lodge chairman who supports a national strike ballot.

Sealink strike threat over sale

From Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter, Guernsey

The sale of Sealink seems destined to succeed the privatization of British Telecom as the next battle ground between Mrs Thatcher and the unions.

● Mr Slater condemned the 25 per cent tax relief on overseas earnings and said it had cut his members' pay by more than £4 a week on average.

● The merchant fleet had declined from 1,000 to 750 ships in the last two years, Mr Slater said. Fourteen of the 48 merchant ships in the task force during the Falklands fighting were now either laid up or sailing under foreign flags.

to services and jobs. If Mrs Margaret Thatcher would not listen there would be "far more serious action".

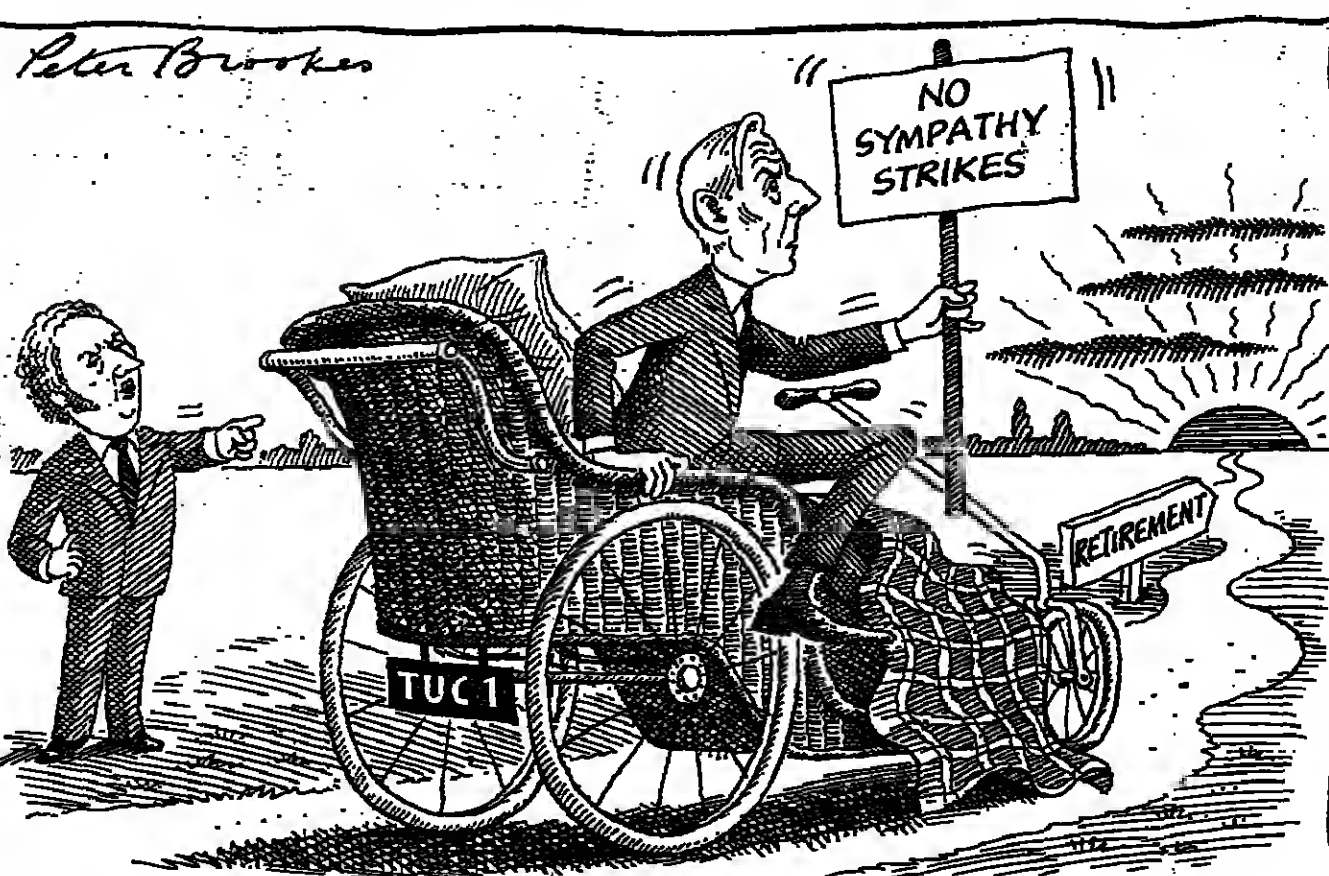
"We want to support the public and will choose a time of least inconvenience. We hope further action will be unnecessary," Mr Slater said.

"Sealink is owned by the people, not by Mrs Thatcher and the British Rail management. It is not theirs to sell," Mr Slater said. He said that ferry links with communities in the Channel Islands, Ireland, and the Continent should be run on the basis of "public need, not private greed".

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"At least it's proof of hidden reserves after 'exhaustion'"

Few make complaints about police

Fewer than one in ten members of the public who say that they have been annoyed by the police make an official complaint, a Home Office research study showed yesterday.

Sixteen per cent of a sample of 9,000 said in interviews that they had been annoyed to some extent by their contacts with the police in the previous five years, but only 1 per cent claimed to have made an official complaint.

Almost half of those who were dissatisfied but did not complain gave as their reason that "it would be no use". Eighteen per cent said that they were afraid they might get into trouble if they did.

Informal local conciliation procedures might help to improve the complaints system, the report says. Like another Home Office research document on police efficiency last month, it expressed doubts about the popular remedy of putting more police on the street.

Without more selective tactics, that might simply increase the number of "negative contacts", it says.

It recommends a policy of increasing the opportunities for friendly contacts between the police and young men, the group who express greatest dissatisfaction, especially those from racial minorities in city areas.

Most contacts between the police and public are initiated by the latter, the report finds. The most common grievance was about the attitude of the police, and complaints of malpractice or undue force represented no more than 15 per cent of all dissatisfaction. Respondents who had suffered from crimes reported more to the police in only 30 per cent.

The study analyses replies given in an interview survey conducted in 1981. It was mainly concerned with public attitudes to crime, but included some questions about relations with the police.

Contacts Between Police and Public (Home Office research study No 77, Stationery Office, £3.80).

Damages of £10,196 after circumcision

A religious party to celebrate the circumcision of a Muslim boy aged five turned to "almost hysterical despair" when a doctor amputated half of his penis, Mr Justice Taylor said in the high court in London yesterday.

It was successfully sewn back on in an emergency operation, but psychologically there was a risk of difficulties.

The boy, now aged eight, was awarded £10,196 damages, including £8,000 for pain and suffering.

His parents were awarded £3,000 each for "nervous shock" and other damages of £1,680.

Contacts Between Police and Public (Home Office research study No 77, Stationery Office, £3.80).

EEC milk quotas had to happen Thatcher says

By Our Political Staff

Mrs Margaret Thatcher acknowledged yesterday the difficulties being faced by dairy farmers as a result of the cuts in milk production imposed by the EEC quota arrangements, but she said: "They did know it had to happen."

Within the overall cut of 9 per cent on the 1983 production figure, a margin of 2 per cent was being "redistributed" to help dairy farmers suffering "real hardship".

Sir Henry Plumb, leader of the Conservative group of MEPs, added that the details of the scheme to assist these farmers were being worked out.

Elvedon belonged in the mid-nineteenth century to Duleep Singh, Maharaja of the Punjab, and is still deeply revered.

A group from Birmingham sadly watched as a six ft portrait of Duleep Singh sold for £15,120 (estimate £3,000 to £5,000) to an American collector. However, there was a chrome lithograph after the portrait on offer and this the Sikhs successfully secured at £918 (estimate £60 to £100).

In London the first session of Sotheby's important spring sale of antiques, maps and travel books totalling £542,190, with 16 per cent left unsold.

Children sent home as teachers strike

By Richard Garner of The Times Educational Supplement

Thousands of children were sent home from school yesterday as teachers staged half-day strikes in support of their pay claim and in some parts of the country, began voting on an indefinite strike.

Leaders of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers, which has 120,000 members, called out members in Hampshire, Leeds, Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, and South Glamorgan yesterday. The action was part of a series of half-day strikes in those areas in protest at the local authorities' refusal to increase their 4.5 per cent pay offer or to go to arbitration over the teachers' pay claim.

The strike will intensify as the National Union of Teachers, which has 235,000 members, calls out about 4,000 teachers in 42 local education authorities on a three-day strike. Teachers will be exempted only for the periods when they are taking examination candidates.

In inner London - which has the biggest branch of the NUT

in the country, and where teachers in Camden and Lewisham start to strike today - NUT members are being balloted on whether they will support an all-out strike.

The results of the ballot are likely to be known before the next meeting of the union's executive on June 2, when strategy will be reviewed and further action considered.

The NAS-UWT estimated that the half-day strike by 95 of its members yesterday resulted in 4,920 children being sent home at lunchtime.

Over the week, it expects 395 teachers in Leeds to take strike action, affecting 20 schools. Meanwhile, the traditionally moderate Assistant Masters and Mistresses Association, which has 90,000 members yesterday joined the UNT and NAS-UWT in refusing to cover for teachers absent from schools.

● Mr Merlyn Rees, a former Labour Home Secretary, yesterday called unsuccessfully for an emergency Commons debate on disruption in schools caused by the teachers' dispute.

Libyans training in UK set for military service

By John Withers

Hundreds of Libyans now training in Britain as civil airline pilots and engineers would be well qualified to switch to military service when they return home, aviation and military experts said yesterday.

Twenty-three pilots are being trained at private schools in Oxford and Scotland, and about 360 engineers are being instructed in this country.

Mr Harry Greenwood, Conservative MP for Ealing North, has tabled a parliamentary question to Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, asking whether any Libyans coming for airline training have been refused entry, and if their instruction had been used for military purposes in Libya.

Mr Greenwood has also written to the House Secretary asking if he is aware of the public concern "in view of the irresponsibility and hostility of the Libyan Government".

An official at the International Institute for Strategic Studies said that anyone with British aviation training would be likely to be called up in the event of hostilities.

Mr David Learmonth, an editor of *Flight International* and a former RAF flying instructor, said that anyone who gained a British pilot licence on a Piper aircraft would be well placed to move on to more advanced training for either civilian or military aircraft.

Libya has one of the biggest air forces in the Arab world. It has more than 500 combat aircraft, compared with Britain's 620.

Burghley House antiques rise with the market

By Robin Young

Sotheby's representative in the east Midlands, Lady Victoria Leatham, has an almost full-time job sorting antiques in her home, Burghley House, Lincolnshire. She is preparing an inventory in the hope of having many of the contents exempted from capital transfer tax as works of art of national importance.

Since the house's collections were last assessed, on her grandfather's death in 1956, evaluations have changed considerably. Japanese porcelain, to which comparatively little value was attached in 1956, has risen sharply in price. Burghley's, which has been at the house since the 1860s, is the earliest inventoried collection in Britain.

"We rediscover pieces that have been tucked away every day", Lady Victoria said. Most recently she lifted a second world war gas mask, to find a kakemono decorated beaker underneath.

An exhibition of the house's Chinese and Japanese porcelain has attracted 63,000 people and a display of Burghley's silver and plate was similarly successful. Lady Victoria organizes musical evenings and weekends to help to meet the Tudor house's running costs.

Some works were exempted from death duty after Lady Victoria's grandfather died in 1956, on condition that the tax must be paid if they were sold. Lady Victoria hopes that a more extensive list may be similarly exempted from capital transfer tax as being of national importance when her father's estate is assessed.

In any case, she insists, treasures which include paintings by Gainsborough, Brughel, Tintoretto, Carlo Dolci, and Bassano will not leave the house.

Lady Victoria: Discovering new treasures every day.



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MPs force rethink on access plan

The Government has had to reconsider plans to make new public buildings more accessible to disabled people after a warning from MPs on the all-party group on disablement that they will vote against the changes because they do not go far enough.

Ministers were planning to lay new building regulations shortly, requiring that the disabled should be given access to new public buildings but to the ground floor only.

Disability groups, which have been arguing for the new regulations for almost a decade, are insisting that access should be given to all floors.

Yesterday Mr John Mackay, Under-Secretary of State, Scottish Office, was due to announce similar proposals for Scotland at a seminar in Glasgow. He failed to arrive, sending instead a senior civil servant to explain that "there has been a hiccup" and that "ministers want more time to consider objections".

Contacts Between Police and Public (Home Office research study No 77, Stationery Office, £3.80).

Sale room

From Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent, Theford

Rich local people, jostling with the cream of the London trade, packed Christie's marquee at Elvedon Hall, near Theford, Norfolk, yesterday. Between them they sent prices through the roof. The pictures alone made £972,872, where only £540,000 was expected.

The vast house was furnished by the first Lord Iveagh, head of the Guinness family, at the turn of the century and the contents are being sold by his grandson, the present Earl.

An Edwardian folly on the grandest scale, incorporating an Italian marble hall, it has been closed up since 1939.

The most interesting bids of the day came from the London silver dealer Mr Jack Koopman. But he was determined to make a mystery of his buying. "It is a mystery of the number that buys," he said, referring to the numbered paddles, with which Christie's had issued all their bidders.

His paddle spent £129,600

Norman, Sale Room Correspondent, Theford

(estimate £30,000 to £50,000) on a vast painting of the first Lady Iveagh reclining on a fur-draped sofa under a banana palm in a conservatory full of jungle blossom. It was painted by George Elgar Hicks in 1884 and originally cost 600 guineas.

The same paddle went on to oust Mr John Partridge, the leading Bond Street furniture dealer, again and again.

It secured a set of 12 George III mahogany dining chairs at £97,200 (estimate £40,000 to £50,000), a set of 16 Irish dining chairs at £60,480 (estimate £20,000 to £30,000), a massive mahogany pedestal sideboard, part eighteenth century part Edwardian at £17,280 (estimate £2,000 to £3,000), and a George IV mahogany wine cooler carved in imitation of the famous classical Warwick vase at £28,080 (estimate £3,000 to £5,000).

Mr Koopman has helped to form the superb silver collec-

tion of Mr Mubammad Al Tajir, Ambassador to London of the United Arab Emirates and reputedly the richest man in the world. The collection contains a massive silver-gilt replica of the Warwick vase by Paul Storr and its mahogany counterpart could well find its way there.

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Terrorist informer recruited by police

From Richard Ford, Belfast

A Provisional IRA informer was recruited as a police agent to supply information on terrorist activity by the Provisionals and the Irish National Liberation Army over a four-year period, a court was told yesterday.

The scale of Raymond Gilmore's penetration of both organizations in return for regular payments from the Royal Ulster Constabulary, was outlined by the Crown at Belfast Crown Court.

His information led to the INLA cell in Londonderry becoming inactive and he was able to observe those in the front line of terrorism, as well as the people providing administrative support.

Counsel for the Crown said that the informer had carried out a task that put him at considerable risk because if his activities had been discovered he would have been shot.

Mr Gilmore, aged 24, from the Creggan area of Londonderry, is the main prosecution witness against 36 men and three women accused of 186 charges including murder, attempted murder, and possessing explosives and firearms.

The trial, expected to last six months, is being held in a jury court and yesterday almost eighty police and prison officers ringed the room in the court where Mr Gilmore will appear in the witness box tomorrow.

Counsel said that the informer was approached while on bail for an armed robbery charge in 1978 and agreed to become an undercover agent. He joined the INLA and between 1978 and 1979 had participated in terrorist crime in the "role of a police agent", keeping regular contact with the RUC.

The trial continues today.

Pay strike by IPC journalists

Journalists employed by IPC Magazines, the publishers of *Owner*, *Woman's Own*, *Country Life* and nearly 200 other titles, will be on strike today over a claim for improved salary and conditions.

The one-day strike by between 1,200 and 1,300 staff will be followed by a two-day strike next Tuesday and Wednesday when the journalists expect the publication of news-based magazines such as *New Scientist* and *New Musical Express* to be affected.

Mr David Spittles, father of the IPC chapel (office branch) of the National Union of Journalists, said they had originally asked for a substantial pay rise to achieve comparability with national newspapers and broadcasting.

That claim was reduced to 12½ per cent and they were offered 7 per cent, which was rejected. IPC was not a closed shop but he thought that 90 per cent of the staff would respond to the strike call.

Mr Leo Abse, Labour MP for Torfaen and one of the clause's chief opponents, says he is raising the matter before the Commons Standing Committee on Procedure.

Mr Abse said that a practising judge was anticipated the decision of the courts in divorce proceedings, and saying how the clause would be interpreted. He added that the Solicitor General, Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, had suggested that "an opinion expressed ex cathedra by a judge in evidence to Parliament" should be regarded as binding.

If the opinion of Sir John was to be circulated, Mr Abse said, why, not that of Lord Denning?

Five seek Oxford poetry chair

Five candidates are to contest the election for the Professorship of Poetry at Oxford University. Nominations closed yesterday with the field made up of four established names, Mr Peter Levi, Mr James Fenton, Mr Gavin Ewart, and Mr Frank Pinter, and a fifth, Mr Duncan MacCann, who began writing poetry two years ago, reciting it at the King's Arms public house in Oxford.

The election will take place in the Sheldonian Theatre on May 31 and June 2. Only Oxford MAs can vote. The professor's main duties, for £2,660 a year, are to deliver a public lecture each term and to judge some prizes.

TV-am chiefs to meet journalists

Journalists at the breakfast television company, TV-am, expect to meet its management today to discuss the departure of the editor-in-chief, Mr Greg Dyke, and the possibility of further staff cuts.

The journalists passed a resolution yesterday expressing their deep regret at his departure. Mr Dyke has agreed with the company not to discuss the reasons for his departure.

Boys threw cat from window

Two boys aged 15 and 16 from Dunstan College, Uxeter, Staffordshire, who killed their housemaster's wife's cat by throwing it from a second-storey window, were given conditional charges for a year and ordered to pay £750 costs at the town's juvenile court yesterday. They have since been expelled.

The students were in grave contempt of court and anyone who tried to frustrate its attempt to identify the wrongdoers would run the gravest peril, he said.

Roger Scruton, page 14.

Overseas selling prices: Australia \$1.50, Canada \$1.50, Hong Kong \$1.50, Japan \$1.50, New Zealand \$1.50, Singapore \$1.50, South Africa \$1.50, Switzerland \$1.50, Taiwan \$1.50, Thailand \$1.50, USA \$1.50, West Germany \$1.50, Yugoslavia \$1.50.

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Human embryos research 'opening way to concentration camp abuse'

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

Scientists and doctors who specialize in research on human embryos and who help to produce test-tube babies for infertile couples were fiercely criticized yesterday by Sir John Peel, a former gynaecologist to the Queen, at a news conference which was also told that the way was being opened to "concentration camp" abuses.

"We are being brought to the brink of something almost like the atomic bomb. The potentiality of what can be done is quite horrible," Sir John said at the conference organized by the Order of Christian Unity, an association composed of Christians of all denominations.

Professor Ian Donald, a pioneer of ultrasound diagnostics, accused the professions of opening the door to abuses such as hybrid experiments, sex discrimination in which boys would be preferred to girls; surrogate motherhood in which "womb leasing" might be overtaken by "womb requisition"; and of ultimately creating human beings from the embryo to childbirth outside the womb.

He said that scientists had a tendency to "pass the buck" to theologians, philosophers, legislators, and society at large. "But the responsibility is theirs. Otherwise, if they can grow a human embryo to 10 days, why not 30 days, or 60 days, or why not go right to term? If you can experiment with an age, why not a human being?" he said.

Their comments yesterday in St Bride's, Fleet Street, London,

came a few days after the world's leading specialists in in-vitro fertilization held a four-day conference in Helsinki. At that meeting, some of the complex ethical, moral, and legal issues associated with human embryos and test-tube babies were discussed.

However, Sir John, a past president of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and of the British Medical Association, said: "As a member of the medical profession, I must say that I have deplored the way in which my profession is prepared to shrug off its ethical and moral responsibilities. It is a very unhappy development."

That, he said, was a terrible indictment because "they are totally disregarding the effects of producing children in these artificial ways to satisfy the wishes of an individual or an individual couple, and with precious little thought to what is going to happen to the child or the children."

Such implications have been the concern of the Warnock committee, which is due to report to the Government next month, having sought evidence on the issues from a wide range of professional, religious, and other groups.

Professor Donald said he sympathized with the committee members. "But I think the public will be little more informed and a lot more confused by the Warnock report," he added.

Mr Gerard Wright, a lawyer

noted for getting index-linked compensation for Thalidomide victims, challenged the attitude of Dr Robert Edwards, the test-tube baby pioneer, who has said that it would be unethical not to carry out research on human embryos to help to understand and prevent congenital diseases.

"I think he has lost his way and that it is unethical to do such research," Mr Wright said. He felt that it should be unlawful to fertilize more than one egg except for the purpose of implanting it into the woman from whom it had been taken.

Professor Donald said: "The desire to have a baby does not necessarily entitle you to have one." He went on to criticize implicitly the medical team at Hammersmith Hospital, west London, which had delivered test-tube quadruplets three weeks ago.

He listed potential abuses such as experiments on embryos, and said: "In an age which has brought us concentration camps, this could happen. Hitler could have produced a situation which does not bear thinking about. We cannot assume this kind of thing still cannot happen."

Lady Lathian, the president of the Order of Christian Unity, suggested that if present techniques had been available during the Nazi regime, Jewish women in concentration camps could have been forced to carry, as surrogate mothers, pure-bred Aryan embryos to be children for the Third Reich.



The Right Rev Keith Sutton, aged 49 - pictured with his wife and children - who is to become the new Bishop of Lichfield, succeeding the Right Rev John Skelton. He has been Bishop Suffragan of Kingston upon Thames since 1978.

Martin hysterical after argument with 'Black Panther'

Two days before David Martin, the gunman, was found hanged in Parkhurst Prison on March 13 he had a serious argument with his new friend, the "Black Panther", Donald Neilson, jailed for the murder of Lesley Whittle, a school girl.

Yesterday, the Isle of Wight coroner, Mr Keith Preston, was told at the resumed inquest into Martin's death that the incident led to his being put under observation day and night because of his hysterical outburst and his suicidal mood. But Martin was found hanged between the half-hourly visits by officers to the cell.

Mr Donald Smith, a senior officer at Parkhurst, told the jury that the argument was about who should have the use of video equipment available to all prisoners in the special security wing.

"I decided that Martin was out of order," Mr Smith said. "It was Neilson's turn to use the video. But Martin would not see my point of view. He became hysterical and I gave orders for him to be locked in his cell."

Mr Smith said the Martin had lost face with the other prisoners who knew he was in the wrong.

Another prisoner, Henry McKeown, known as Big H, who was convicted of gangland contract killings, said: "Come on, David, go to your cell and grow up." Later, Martin was seen weeping on his bed.

Questioned by Mr James Sturman, counsel for Martin's family, Mr Smith said that when Martin "got in his moods" he would not mix, but he was friendly with the other prisoners.

Det Sergeant William Berry told the jury that a noise made from a piece of flex from a washing machine was found round Martin's neck when he was discovered suspended from the air ventilation grill in his cell. He also produced two notes left by Martin.

One was addressed to Martin's girl friend Miss Sue

Stephens. The coroner showed them to lawyers and to members of the jury but asked that the contents should not be disclosed publicly.

Mr Alfred Jennings, an assistant governor at Parkhurst, said that Martin was serving 25 years and his earliest release date would have been June, 1999. He was in the special security wing with six or seven other prisoners.

Dr Brian Cooper, the principal medical officer at Parkhurst, said Martin's biggest grievance was over Miss Stephens who would not visit him. He was also concerned at the length of his sentence.

Dr Cooper said that Martin was very emotional and that



Martin: Lost face in an argument.

while on remand in Brixton Prison he went on hunger strike six times. He also survived an overdose of tablets, but there was doubt whether that was a genuine suicide attempt.

He was on hunger strike when he arrived at Parkhurst and he hoped that by suffering he could make his girl friend visit him. Dr Cooper said that he placed Martin in the category of prisoners who almost use their lives as a blackmail threat.

Mr Ralph Martin, the dead man's father, said that in Brixton his son told him he would hang himself because he could not face a long sentence.

The jury returned a verdict that Martin killed himself.

Steady rise in house prices

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

The latest survey of house prices in England and Wales by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors discloses a "very active market with steady price rises".

There are signs of a shortage of property in the middle and upper price ranges, and many agents in the South report that demand is beginning to exceed supply.

In its survey for the quarter ending in April, the institution says that the national picture is of a "gentle but steady upward trend, slightly above the level of inflation". More than half

the 296 agents taking part reported price rises of 2 per cent, nearly a fifth reported rises of 5 per cent, and some indicated increases of more than 8 per cent.

Sales are more sluggish and price rises rare in areas of high unemployment.

Commenting on the latest figures, Mr John Thomas, RICS spokesman on the housing market, said yesterday: "At last the market has really shaken free from the doldrums which it has experienced, off and on, during the past two to three years."

Thousands of older people face the prospect of years of "needless distress" because they have been sold the wrong home for their requirements, an architect said yesterday.

Mr Boh Cullen, of Nottingham, launching a campaign for retirement housing, said that well intentioned developers were selling retirement homes in response to the demands of the elderly, but were often getting the formula wrong.

He outlined the main faults as the provision of a staircase, but no lift; poor access to shops.

Campaign to fight photocopy licensing

By Kenneth Gosling

A meeting of local authorities, university vice-chancellors, and industrialists has been called next month to establish what is called "solidarity in the face of continuing pressure" by the Publishers' Association, which wants to introduce a licensing system for photocopying.

It has been convened by the Association for Information Management - a body with a corporate membership of 2,000, half in industry and commerce - which has drawn up its own code of practice to protect "single-page" photocopy users.

"We need to get our act together," Dr Dennis A. Lewis, director of the association, said yesterday. "Users have been divided so far and are being picked off by the publishers one by one."

It was also hoped, he said, to influence legislation on copyright now being considered by the Government.

Many users of journals and

books of a technical and educational nature would, the association says, be penalized heavily if they were tied to a licence system. Local authorities and education bodies are also under heavy financial pressures, it argues.

The Association of County Councils and the Association of Municipal Authorities are shortly to sign a year's experimental agreement with publishers that will bring in an estimated £450,000 in fees for photocopying.

Both will be represented at the meeting on June 5 with the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, the Royal Society, the Confederation of Scottish Local Authorities, and the Confederation of British Industry.

Illegal bulk copying of journals and books costs the publishing industry many millions of pounds a year; illicit copying of music scores is also a big problem.

Illness halts Everest climb

The leader of the Cumbrian Everest expedition has had a heart attack, forcing the team to abandon its attempt to become the first British climbers to reach the summit from China without oxygen.

Mr Ray Gunson, aged 44, an engineer from Dent, Cumbria, telephoned his wife Sheila to say that they had reached 24,500 feet.

Mrs Gunson said yesterday that it took nine days to bring her husband down the mountain. Being such a small team, they could not then go on.

"When he rang from central China, he did not seem too bad. But that was two and a half weeks after his ordeal."

The team will fly from Peking today to Bucharest and arrive at Heathrow tomorrow.

Parkhurst siege pair sentenced

Two prisoners who took an assistant governor of Parkhurst prison, Mr Gerry Schofield, hostage at the jail last year were sentenced at Winchester Crown Court yesterday. John Bowden, aged 26, was jailed for 10 years to run concurrently with the life sentence for murder he received in 1982. James McCaig, aged 27, was jailed for seven years nine months, to run from yesterday. He was due to be released next year.

Farmer again remanded

Graham Backhouse, a farmer, of Widdon Hill Farm, Horton, Avon, was remanded in custody for a further week yesterday when he appeared before Avon North magistrates charged with the attempted murder of his wife, Maggie, and the murder of a neighbour, Mr Colyn Bedale-Taylor. Reporting restrictions were not lifted.

Car takeaway

A drive-in fish shop, believed to be the first in Britain, is to open 5000 in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, and may herald a chain of such shops if the experiment proves a success.



Renault Espace: Shape of cars to come?

Breaking the mould

By Our Motoring Correspondent

A new car that breaks with traditional design to shape, interior layout, and its plastic body will be launched by Renault in France next month.

The Renault Espace has been developed jointly by the state-owned car maker and Matra, the French aerospace company.

Its one-box body with front-wheel drive has an ingenious seating arrangement, using movable or removable seats to cope with up to seven occupants and luggage within an overall length of only 14 feet.

The body is made of polyester sheet reinforced with glass fibre. Renault claims it is as strong as steel of similar weight and will absorb light knocks without needing repairs.

It will be available in four versions with two-litre petrol and turbo-diesel engines and is said to have a top speed of 109 mph and average fuel consumption of more than 32 mpg.

No prices are available at present and it is not expected in Britain until next year.

Challenge over war HQ on trust land fails

Lord Beaumont of Whitley, the Liberal peer, failed in his High Court challenge yesterday to the National Trust's decision to allow the Ministry of Defence to build a bunker on land let to it for preservation.

Mr Justice Nicholls ruled that the trust had the power and the right to grant leases to the ministry.

Lord Beaumont, aged 55, a life member of the trust, said that it had exceeded its powers under the National Trust Acts, 1907 and 1971.

But the judge said that the 12-acre site, part of Holly Bush Farm on the Bradenham Estate at Naphill, adjacent to the High Wycombe RAF base, in Buckinghamshire, was wanted by the ministry to build an operations centre to be used as the UK Air Primary Sustain War Headquarters to control military aircraft operating from and over Britain.

The trust granted a 99-year lease in April, 1982. It had not leased the land the ministry had the power to purchase - it compulsorily, the judge said.

Fraud charge man tells his rags-to-riches story

From Our Correspondent, York

The multi-millionaire accused of masterminding the Flockton Grey racing swindle told a jury yesterday of his rags-to-riches story.

Mr Kenneth Richardson told the jury at York Crown Court how his talent for gambling and business had built his family assets to more than £4m.

He said he had made at least £1m from betting on horses alone and regularly won about £50,000 a year on the racecourse.

Earlier, opening the defence case, his counsel Mr George Carman, QC, said that the £12,000 Mr Richardson was said to have stood to win from the swindle would have been "small beer". There could be no sinister motive behind a betting comp on such a small scale.

Mr Richardson, aged 46, is alleged to have headed an elaborate horse switch at a Leicester meeting two years ago, in order to make money from a gambling fraud.

It is alleged that the horse that won the two-year-old's race under the name Flockton

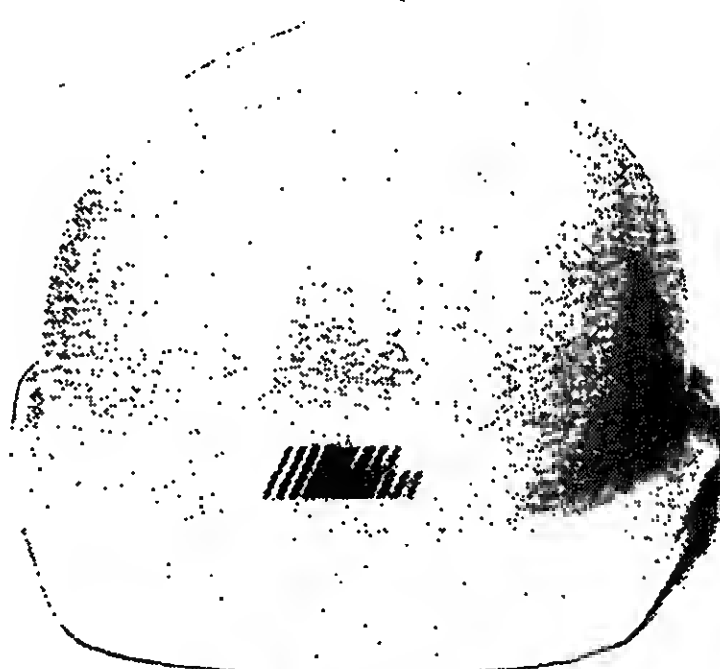
Grey was in fact a three-year-old called Good Hand.

Mr Richardson told the court that he had made his first £1,000 as a sapper in the Royal Engineers during the National Service in the 1950s by cutting soldiers' hair in his spare time. He later set up business repairing farm machinery and manufacturing sacks.

Mr Richardson said he was also associated with Dr Karl Ritter, who was the main investment force behind their Belgian racing stables.

Mr Richardson, who lives next to his Jubilee Stud Farm at Hutton, near Driffield, Humberside, said that his assets were almost all in the name of his wife, Ann, since being made bankrupt in the early 1960s.

Mr Richardson, his racing manager, Mr Colin Mathison, aged 46, of World View Road North, Driffield, and Mr Peter Boddy, aged 38, a horse box driver, of Hazel Close, Driffield, all deny conspiracy to defraud, and conspiracy to obtain property by deception. The trial continues today.



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PARLIAMENT May 21 1984

Benn fails to get debate on latest moves at pits

COAL DISPUTE

Mr Tony Benn (Chesterfield, Lab) unsuccessfully sought leave in the Commons for an emergency debate on aspects of the miners' strike, ministerial responsibilities and police harassment of miners and their families during the dispute.

Mr Benn said that a number of entirely new factors had emerged in the past few days which should be discussed before the spring recess started on Friday.

There was new evidence of direct intervention by Government departments on the direct instructions of responsible ministers who were supposed to be answerable to Parliament but who claimed to be standing back from the dispute.

Ministers had authorised a number of administrative actions none of which they had reported to the House.

Instructions had gone out to delay payment of supplementary benefits, even on the present reduced scale, so that a number of miners' families were not getting their giro payments.

Those who worked for firms indirectly affected by the dispute, and laid off by employers, were being treated differently and denied benefit. That also applied to miners' wives expecting babies who were being denied grants for baby clothes and equipment for their children.

Miners who had accepted early retirement late last year and whose formal leaving date fell after March 1 had been told they could no longer claim redundancy pay and were being referred back to the Department of Energy which was not their employer.

The NCB was threatening not to pay holiday money to miners who did not work for which they had been working for which the strike.

Electricity authorities had been threatening to cut off miners' households unless they paid on a weekly scale and that would take almost all the meagre benefits they were being paid.

The police had been instructed to enter the homes of miners on strike, and to search for and seize any threat of arrest, miners staying there. Miners' wives were being harassed in the street by police patrols.

Bad conditions amounted to denial of civil liberties and the right of assembly when those concerned were not notified of an offence of any sort.

Women attending the picket in support of the miners were being harassed.

These are issues of such importance (he said) that I submit that if the House of Commons ignores them, it will give the impression that it is not interested in the living conditions of tens of thousands of families and will have virtually abdicated its responsibility to discuss matters of public concern, including maintenance of civil liberties.

If this debate is again denied, ministers will conclude that they are free to tighten the screw on miners and their families without having to account for their actions to Parliament.

He had learnt that the meeting secretly arranged between the National Union of Mineworkers and the NCB tomorrow had been cancelled by the coal board.

If the issue was not debated, they would go through this week and the next without discussion of a matter of prime concern to those who worked in the industry, around it, and to whole communities which depended on the maintenance of the coal industry.

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) rejected the application as being not appropriate for discussion under the standing order on emergency debates.

● An application for an emergency debate on the disruption to rail



Benn: Action not reported to the House

transport in Yorkshire resulting from secondary picketing related to the miners' dispute was made by Mr Gerald Cope (York, C) and also refused by the Speaker.

Mr Gregory asked how British Rail could achieve efficiency and respond positively to the Government's investment in the industry when hard line, left wing militants, and without any democratic mandate, took such secondary action.

● On a point of order, Dr David Owen, leader of the SDP (Plymouth, Devonport) said Mr Benn had mentioned a fact which had only recently come to light - namely, that the NUM was expecting to have a meeting with the NCB tomorrow and that this meeting had now been cancelled.

Dr Owen went on: In the light of this, would it not be appropriate for a statement to be made or for some rearrangement of the business of the House? Am I right in thinking that since a motion has not been put down on an Opposition day yet it would be possible, within the rules of order, for the Leader of the Opposition (Mr Neil Kinnock), if he so wished, to use the half day on Wednesday for such a debate?

The Speaker: I am not responsible for statements nor for the choice of subject on Opposition days.

● Mr Merlyn Rees (Leeds South and Morley, Lab) also applied unsuccessfully for an emergency debate on the miners' strike. He referred to the likely effect of the strike on schools in Leeds.

● An application for an emergency debate on the disruption to rail

DHSS use of confidential legal aid data

LEGAL AFFAIRS

A complaint that conditional information given by applicants for civil legal aid was being used by the DHSS for other purposes was made by the Commons by Mr Alfred Dubs, an Opposition spokesman on home affairs (Battersea, Lab). Sir Michael Havers, the Attorney General, said he was giving the matter urgent consideration and intended to advise the Secretary of State for Social Services (Mr Norman Fowler) as soon as possible.

He added later that he thought it would be difficult to prosecute officials in respect of given instructions about the Leode (the legal code) - that they were committing a criminal offence when they were obeying instructions.

Mr Dubs said there was widespread concern that confidential information given by applicants for civil legal aid was being used by the DHSS for other purposes. This appeared to be in accordance with confidential guidance to DHSS staff with the result that staff was probably acting in breach of the Legal Aid Act 1974.

Mr Merlyn Rees (Leeds, South and Morley, Lab): In view of the responsibility of the Lord Chancellor for these matters and the fact that the Attorney General is prepared to talk about them and answer questions here, is this a proper matter to be discussed by the Home Affairs Select Committee?

Would Mrs Chalker restore that part of the network to the programme?

Mrs Chalker: I understand Mr Pike's impatience very well and I am only too glad when a decision is reached. This is expected fairly soon now.

Of all areas, the North West is the best provided with motorways.

Mr Peter Pike (Burnley, Lab): The motorways would be more adequate in Lancashire if the Government decided to link the M65 to the M6.

Many other areas have been waiting a long time for improvements to their infrastructure.

Mr Richard Page (South West Hertfordshire, C) said that because of pressure on the finished parts of the M25 there was a need for a degree of flexibility and the introduction of more lanes.

Mrs Chalker: On certain parts we have provided for four-lane carriageways. We have only completely finished less than 50 per cent. There are some unusual flows of vehicles using the motorway. We

do have the matter under serious consideration.

Mr Roy Hughes (Newport East, Lab) said the Severn Bridge was part of the M4, yet there were persistent hold-ups and one-lane traffic. The latest problem was an overtime ban by those carrying out essential repairs.

Mrs Chalker said the Severn Bridge was given maximum priority by her department and if there were industrial relations problems they would be looked into.

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The matter does need detailed investigation.

Sir Michael Havers: It is not for me to say what is a matter for the committee.

One of the consequences of the court decision is serious. Where one has an errand husband who cannot be traced and the wife is compelled to apply for and receives supplementary benefit, which may be very low, what is ordered by the court, and if the errand husband applies for legal aid - and that must be done within the time limit - then the decision is right, the information cannot be used in provide the remedy the wife needs.

Mr Ivan Lawrence (Barton, C) said if there was doubt about the law, it was time the law was changed. The purpose that most people would want was the checking of fraud in applications for legal aid.

Mr John Morris, chief Opposition spokesman on legal affairs (Aberdeen, Lab): Was the Attorney General consulted by the DHSS before their spokesman commented that they were legally advised that the code did not contravene the law? Will he confirm that the Lord Chancellor believes that it is important that people should not be inhibited from applying for legal aid by reasons of fear of the disclosure of information?

Since the Attorney General has responsibility for authorising prosecutions under Section 22 of the Legal Aid Act, will he refer to the Director of Public Prosecutions whether there have been any breaches of the law so that he may consider prosecution?

Sir Michael Havers: All these matters are under urgent consideration.

recommending to go forward, it will start as soon as possible.

She also said an accident and congestion on the A23 Oxford in Banbury road was being carried out.

Mr Hughes also emphasized the strategic importance of the bridge as part of the motorway network and said the need was to remove an impediment to the free flow of freight and other traffic to and from Wales.

Mr Donald Anderson (Swansea East, Lab): The proposed increase in tolls would be a disaster for the local economy. It would be an additional deterrent to industrial location in the Principality, on top of Government's deterrents such as the reduction in the regional development grant.

Mrs Chalker replied that it was up to the inspector to decide if such assertions were relevant. Obviously, any road at a distance from the ports of entry to the country was a bigger problem than somewhere nearer to the ports.

The present plans were for a start in 1987. In 1985 it was planned to complete compulsory purchase order on side roads.

She later told Mr Balfour: I cannot give him the assurance of a start in 1986 but should the inspector's

fact of members of the socialist group as a whole as they saw the left wing element of the British Labour members hammering away at the Community, hammering away at our membership of it, and doing a disservice to this country to the process.

Hard left candidates for the June 14 elections were coming forward in constituency after constituency. Middle-of-the-road socialists who had shown their support for the Community had been hounded out of the strongest Labour seats.

Two of the best Labour MEPs, Mr Derek Royle (Leeds) and Mr Brian Ke (South Yorkshire) had been pushed aside to make way for hard men of the left.

Today had seen a launch of the Conservative manifesto for the European elections. It contained a genuine programme which was supportive of Britain's membership of the EEC to every possible way. The manifesto pointed to the high way for Europe.

Mr Tam Dalyell (Linlithgow, Lab) said that when he was a member of the indirectly elected European Parliament he was less than enchanted by the Conservative manifesto. The indirectly elected parliament had a great deal to be said for it. It was an enormously valuable experience which he would have liked to see extended to a large number of colleagues on a rotary basis.

Mr George Gardiner (Reigate, C) said it was a vital British interest to participate fully in the Community. He saw no conflict between a commitment to the cause of European cooperation and the country's own interests in the case of negotiations with the Community concerned the gap that still existed with regard to the British budget refund.

The Government was prepared to wait as long as might be necessary to insure that the budget arrangements finally agreed were fair to the people of the United Kingdom as well as to the people of the Community as a whole.

The present chairman of the Labour Party (Mr Eric Heffer) believed the best way to encourage people to vote on June 14 was to have a socialist song for Europe. Last night the Leader of the Opposition (Mr Kinnock) did a song and dance act of his own.

If the socialist song for Europe was meant to refer to the state of the Labour Party how about "The party's over; it is time to call it a day".

If it was going to refer to the twisting and turning of the Labour Party especially since the last election in which it fought for its distance from the Tories, the EEC, then he would suggest "Let's twist again like we did last summer." (Laughter and cheers)

The motion was agreed to by 219 votes to 17 - majority, 202.

Mr Robb Cook, chief Opposition spokesman on European and Community affairs, said MPs were invited to applaud the Government's strong voice in Europe. But there had been no strong voice. The Government had failed to achieve any of its major negotiating objectives.

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Why MP was nearly late for questions

RAILWAYS

Mr Robert Atkins (South Ribblesdale, C) complained during transport questions that the train he had just got off at Euston was 15 minutes late, had standing room only in both second and first class, and lamentable buffet facilities.

When I write on behalf of constituents to British Rail (he said) I get a letter saying "We are sorry and will try to do better".

Which is a statement of State of Transport going to introduce competition in British Rail?

Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State, told Mr Atkins there was a company in transport from the North West.

Mr Atkins could travel by car, or coach or air if he preferred to. I do not think (he added) even he would suggest it is possible to introduce competition between the trains.

I urge Mr Atkins to write to the chairman of BR and I think he would be able to get a more directly responsive to any ways to improve the service.

Mr Peter Snape, an Opposition spokesman on transport, said Mr Atkins had asked down the M6 and M1 motorways he would not have made question time at all and so deprived the House of the substantive answers given by Mr Ridley.

During earlier exchanges, Mr Richard Tracey (Surrey, C) asked Mr Ridley if he felt the London Regional Transport Bill allowed for provision for independent transport in London.

Is he satisfied he also asked, with the independent provision of transport and services? Mr Atkins had asked down the M6 and M1 motorways he would not have made question time at all and so deprived the House of the substantive answers given by Mr Ridley.

CONSERVATIVE MANIFESTO

Tories committed to resolute approach



Strength of purpose: Mrs Thatcher and Mr Gummer at the Conservatives' manifesto launch.

Ideal turned into reality

After five years we have a record of solid achievement in Europe. Our firm economic policies at home are restoring the economic health of Britain, giving us the fastest growth rate of the Ten, and we are helping to lead the Community out of recession.

We have won agreement that there must be a fairer Community budget system. Pending its achievement, we have secured a Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) for the last four years. We have won agreement that there must be effective and guaranteed control of spending, including agriculture.

For the first time in the history of the Common Agricultural Policy, support prices have been reduced and open-ended guarantees removed. We have secured a Common Fisheries Policy which provides a good deal for British fishermen and long-term security.

We have helped consumers by keeping the rise in food prices below the rate of inflation. We have secured reforms in the European Social Fund so that it provides more help to Britain's unemployed, particularly young people training for new jobs.

We have secured important new measures under the Regional Fund to help create new industrial opportunities in the steel, shipbuilding and textile areas of the UK.

We have won agreement on measures to make the Common Market more effective, to move towards freer trade in insurance and transport services, and to give greater priority to scientific and technical co-operation.

Conservatives believe that community membership increases the influence of the United Kingdom and strengthens our ability to direct our own destiny in the world.

Conservatives want to see the community taking the initiative on world problems, not just reacting to them. We want to create a more hopeful relationship between East and West. That is why we have taken the lead in improving co-operation among the Ten on foreign policy.

NATO is the right forum for co-ordination of defence. Closer European co-operation on the purchase and production of defence equipment is in Britain's interest and in Europe's, and can help to promote European industrial development and innovation. We would also like to see even greater co-operation on defence and security among members of the Community.

Enlargement of the community to include Spain and Portugal will strengthen democracy and security in Western Europe. We wish to see these negotiations brought to a conclusion as soon as possible, so that the wish of both countries to join on January 1, 1986, can be met.

The trading strength of the Ten compared to the rest of the world is half as large again as that of the United States.

Conservatives will work for:

freer trade in services, a field in which Britain leads the world; a community policy to roll back protectionism, in agriculture as well as industrial products; action to ensure that Japan opens her markets more rapidly to imports and investment.

The opening up of markets in newly industrialised countries: measures to deal effectively with unfair practices by other countries and to provide breathing space for community industries in difficulties; action to solve our trading differences with the US in a way which defends our legitimate interests, notably in agriculture, company law and taxation;

action to promote economic coordination and greater exchange rate stability. The less developed countries take 40 per cent of the community's exports. In turn they supply us with many of our raw materials. The community's trade and aid policies towards these countries should reflect this degree of interdependence and be designed to meet humanitarian needs, to encourage self-sufficiency and to further our trading and political interests.

Already over two million British jobs depend on our trade with the rest of the community, which provides by far our largest market. Furthermore, much investment from other countries such as the United States and Japan come to Britain, bringing new jobs in advanced industries, because we are guaranteed tariff-free access to the vast common market.

We must make faster progress towards a Community-wide market.

The Conservative manifesto for the European elections, *The Strong Voice in Europe*, was launched yesterday. It says that Britain's practical, positive and constructive contribution has helped turn the European ideal into reality. The Conservative commitment is to a resolute approach to negotiations for an improved Common Agricultural Policy and a fairer budgetary system. The manifesto says:

where those with goods and services to sell can go about their business with a minimum of restrictions and burdens. In particular, we shall strive to:

- eliminate costly delays and bureaucracy at frontiers within the community;
- make public purchasing more open and competitive;
- create a common market for financial and other services, which is particularly important to Britain as the financial centre of Europe;
- promote faster progress towards mutual recognition of proper professional qualifications;
- agree a definite and detailed timetable for the removal of tariff barriers to trade.

Developing Europe's industrial potential

This is a key to the future prosperity of the community. We will promote common efforts on research and innovation such as the ESPRIT programme on information technology, and the new programmes on telecommunications and bio-technology: the costs of such work are often too great for individual countries or companies; encourage training programmes for the new technology industries; seek to remove obstacles to joint European ventures and investment, and encourage industrial co-operation.

Community funds

We recognise that Community funds can play a useful role in supporting these policies. The UK benefits from these funds, and from the activities of the European Investment Bank. We will continue to insist on an increase in the share of non-agricultural spending in the Community Budget, including the Regional and Social Funds; ensure that resources are used where they are most needed; work to ensure that enlargement does not lead to our own problem areas being deprived of a fair share of Community support; ensure that lending by the European Investment Bank particularly benefits small businesses.

Monetary co-operation

The question of sterling participation in the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System remains under regular review. We should only take that step when the conditions are right, both for us and for our partners. We should only take that step when the conditions are right, both for us and for our partners. We should only take that step when the conditions are right, both for us and for our partners.

Transport

We attach a high priority to increasing freedom of competition in transport. We are pressing for easing of the unduly restrictive quota of community road haulage

Securing Reforms

Since 1979 we have worked to persuade our partners that the Community must set its own house in order if it is to tackle the major external challenges. We have argued that a budgetary system which imposes unfair burdens on Britain or any other country and which provides no firm control of spending, is damaging to the unity and effectiveness of the community. Prolonged annual battles are not a sensible way of dealing with the problem.

At the Stuttgart Summit last June, the Prime Minister secured the agreement of our partners to launch a major negotiation to establish a fairer distribution of burdens to curb the growth of expenditure, particularly on the CAP, to develop new policies; and to examine the community's revenue needs.

Since then we have been involved in long and tough negotiations to complete this agenda. We have now secured the agreement of our partners to a system of budgetary discipline, a maximum level of overall expenditure will be fixed each year, and the rate of growth of agricultural expenditure (which accounts for two-thirds of the total budget) will be held below the rate of growth of community revenue.

permits, and their eventual abolition, to enable free movement of goods across the EEC. Community agreement to counter-act protectionism in world shipping and to act against unfair and disruptive action from Eastern bloc countries. More competition in air passenger transport to provide a greater variety of service and encourage lower fares.

Agriculture

Conservatives recognise the benefit of secure food supplies and marketable prices brought about by the CAP, and the part the policy has played in easing difficult social changes in the countryside. But the CAP has become the victim of its own success. We must tackle the problems of cost and surplus now so that it can be placed on a basis which will safeguard the future of a healthy agricultural industry, and preserve the quality of our rural heritage.

Our new system of budgetary discipline, combined with the package of measures agreed by Agriculture Ministers in March this year, marks a significant reform of the operation of the CAP and a first major step towards control of agricultural spending.

British agriculture, Conservatives, as the national party, have to strike a balance between farmers, consumers and taxpayers. We will support the anti-farmer attitudes of the Labour Party. Its policies for the CAP, and for the rearing of agricultural land and nationalisation of tenanted land, would drastically cut British agricultural production and drive tens of thousands of farmers and agricultural workers off the land.

Controlling surpluses. The removal of open-ended guarantees for products in surplus, or likely to be in surplus, has now been agreed by Ministers. We have agreed this year, for the first time in the history of the CAP, price reductions or a price freeze on nearly all major products.

Real influence of European Parliament

Since 1979, the directly-elected European Parliament has established for itself a position of real influence at the centre of the community's decision-making. Its role is to scrutinise and, where necessary, to amend or check proposals for new legislation from the Commission; to control spending; to act as the forum where the problems facing the community can be discussed; and to ensure that the Commission is held to account.

In the constituencies, the Conservative Members are a vital link between the community and the voters of this country. They have helped to safeguard the rights of individuals and businesses threatened by bureaucracy or administrative action, and they have fought to ensure that firms and projects in their constituencies receive a fair share of community resources.

The newly-elected Parliament must give high priority to developing a more consistent and responsible stance on the central issues, notably those relating to the Community Budget.

Conservatives have insisted that member states should retain the right to protect their vital national interests in the Council of Ministers. It is not in our interest that member states should, without proper justification, veto agreement on measures which would benefit the UK.

A Strong Community

The implementation of Labour Party policies would destroy jobs and prosperity across Europe just as they would in Britain. A protectionist Europe is no more likely to secure our interests than a protectionist Britain. A non-aligned Europe is no more likely to safeguard our liberties than a non-aligned Britain. Withdrawal from the Community, whether plainly advocated or disguised in Labour's call for a new Messina Conference to tear up our treaties, would do serious damage to British interests in Europe.

It would be equally wrong to plunge into a federal Europe, as the Liberals propose, and thus lose our capacity to protect British interests. We need a strong Conservative team in government and in the European parliament is the best protection for British interests and for the future of the whole community. We do not change our policies every time there is an election. That is why people trust us.

LABOUR MANIFESTO

Labour keeps open option to withdraw

Way forward for Europe

Labour demands an end to the waste of resources - and wasted opportunities - brought about by Tory policies. We call on the Government now to create new jobs, rebuild British industry and save our National Health Service.

Labour demands new policies for Europe for an end to mass unemployment and industrial decline. We need to give a new priority to investment in industry, in training, and to economic expansion.

Labour demands a break with the past in the European Community - for an end to its squabbling, its stagnation, its man-made mountains of surplus food which go to waste while millions in the Third World starve, its agricultural system which has made the Community virtually bankrupt and brought sky-high prices for food.

These are the real issues in the European elections: the need to provide jobs for our people. The need to invest and to modernize our industry. The need to provide food at fair prices. The need to safeguard and extend our health and social services.

These are the issues which make the elections to the European Parliament so vital to us all. They are the issues which are at the heart of Labour's campaign for a better future.

Labour's principles

We are a democratic socialist party. Let there be no doubt about it. We are on the side of the people because we are part of the people. We put people before profit or institutions.

We both want the same things: A fundamental right to employment for everyone. The best health care for all - regardless of ability to pay.

Social services and benefits available to all in need, young or old, disabled or unemployed. A first-class education for our children, with a secure career to follow.

Decent homes in a clean environment. An end to discrimination. The protection and extension of our democratic rights and freedoms. And peace in a world working together to end poverty and fear.

These are the values which inspire our policies. We are proud to put them in the forefront of our manifesto. Proud to be judged upon them.

Labour's manifesto for the European elections, *A Fair Deal for Britain and a New Deal for Europe*, launched yesterday, says that the British people will have the chance to demand a new start - for Britain and Europe. Labour says that Britain, like all member states, must retain the option of withdrawal from the EEC. The manifesto says:

Crusade for jobs

There is one issue to which we must give priority. One issue upon which solving everything else depends. And that is the issue of mass unemployment. There are more than 14 million people out of work in Europe. It is the shadow which darkens their lives, blots out their future and destroys hope. We must lift that shadow. It cannot be done quickly and it cannot be done easily. But unless we start soon it may never be done at all.

To invest in depressed regions - through giving a new priority in the Regional Development Fund, and by giving a major boost to regional development by member states. To ensure that our North Sea oil wealth is invested in Britain - instead of it being wasted on unemployment, or flowing overseas to build up the industries of our competitors.

To help British industry win markets at home and abroad - Labour will resist any attempt to take Britain into the European Monetary System for this would make British goods even less competitive than now. And we will press our partners to accept the sensible planning of trade, so as to protect economic expansion and help create and safeguard jobs.

To achieve rapid progress towards a 35-hour week without loss of pay - throughout the Community as called for by European socialist and trade unions. This will ensure that economic expansion in Europe really does feed through into new jobs.

To use our energy resources more efficiently - with a new energy policy that will help to create more jobs. We need to develop renewable resources, and above all, we must safeguard and develop Europe's own energy resources. We will fight to defend and develop British coal - and to protect our coal industry from subsidised imports.

To extend Labour's democratic principles into industry - to ensure that working people have a fair say in decisions that affect their lives. Labour supports the EEC proposal that workers should have the right to be informed and consulted by their employers. We condemn the British government for refusing to extend the rights of workers.

In Britain, as in Europe, there is still great wealth of natural resources. And there is even greater wealth in the skills and expertise

through the EEC to enable women to have the training they need to have a fair chance of working on equal terms with men. The Tory government has refused to take up all the money on offer.

Better environment. Conditions in Britain and all over Europe are concerned at the neglect of our environment, and the pollution of our rivers and countryside.

We demand a system which encourages lower prices in the shops. We oppose a food policy which makes rich farmers even richer but squeezes others unfairly. Whole groups of farmers are penalized.

We need to end discrimination against work for appallingly low wages - among the lowest in Britain. Our fishing industry has been devastated by the Community's fishing policy - bringing unemployment and hardship to many communities.

Added to the waste of food and resources, there is the damage to our countryside from the constant pressure to increase production at any cost.

A way to cheaper food. For the sake of all our futures, we need to end the waste generated by the Common Agricultural Policy. We need to:

- Put an end to high food prices.
- Lift the burden of agricultural subsidies from the shoppers.
- End the system of farm support that leads to food mountains.
- Open the Common Market to cheaper food from elsewhere.
- Guarantee a decent living for farmworkers and those farmers who work in the worst conditions.
- Protect Britain's fishing industry. Safeguard our environment.

Only the Labour Party has the strength and determination to press these reforms home in Europe.

Fair deal for all

In Britain, as in Europe, the crisis brought on by reactionary Tory governments threatens not only our jobs, but also our social services and our democratic freedoms.

We need to end discrimination wherever it is found. We need to protect and rebuild our social services and the communities they serve. We need to protect local democracy and trade union rights.

Labour is working in Britain and in Europe, for a fair deal for women. Special funds are available

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Mauroy gives support to 35-hour week campaign

From Diana Geddes, Paris

M. Pierre Mauroy, the French Prime Minister, has thrown his weight behind workers' demands for a 35-hour working week as a means of fighting unemployment. The number of unemployed in France has risen by 262,000 over the past six months, representing an annual rate of increase of 26 per cent.

However, M. Mauroy has so far made no commitment on the crucial question of whether workers should be compensated in part or in full for the loss of working hours, save to say that "workers cannot demand at one and the same time both more jobs and an increase in real wages".

The employers' federation is vehemently opposed to any reduction in the working week if it means an increase in production costs. That is what happened in 1982, when President Mitterrand himself intervened to insist that workers should suffer no loss of salary as a result of the cut in working week from 40 to 39 hours.

The Communists-led CGT unionist is now insisting that a further cut to 35 hours should likewise not entail any salary loss. The more realistic Socialist CFDT and the independent Force Ouvrière are following the German IG Metall line in demanding no immediate loss of earnings, but agreeing to future wage increases below the going inflation rate.

M. Mauroy told a Socialist rally in Lille on Sunday that "the demand for a 35-hour week is now being heard throughout Europe, and the reply to that demand should be the same throughout Europe... it should become the workers' principal demand in order (to ensure) that the new industrial society which is being born does not become the unemployment society".

A special Cabinet committee meeting is to be held on Friday to discuss new measures for fighting unemployment, including the reduction of the working week. The Government seems

to have no intention this time of imposing an across-the-board cut in hours on employers, but wants rather to negotiate such cuts on an industry-by-industry or even firm-by-firm basis.

Both the Government and the unions are pressing for a shorter working week as a possible solution to the current dispute over Citroën's plans to make 2,000 workers compulsorily redundant. The CGT refuses to countenance any compulsory redundancies.

A further 4,000 jobs are to be shed through early retirement and the voluntary departure of immigrant workers, who are to be offered up to £5,000 in cash under a government-sponsored scheme to induce redundant immigrant workers to return to their countries or origin.

On Saturday, workers who had been occupying Citroën's four factories in the Paris area for the previous week agreed to return to work after the Government refused to give Citroën management the approval it requires for the 2,000 redundancies.

Negotiations are now taking place between the Government and the Citroën management with a view to finding an alternative solution.

M. Mauroy: Supporting fight against unemployment.

The European Parliament

Sparing tactical use of negative powers

From Ian Murray, Brussels

The European Parliament is vested with only two real powers - and both of them are negative. It can reject the Community budget and it can dismiss the European Commission for what it sees as incompetence.

The first of these powers is used within months of the first direct elections. The second it has yet to use, and many believe it never will. Nobody could be sure what the result would be if it did.

So the five-year history of the first directly elected Parliament has essentially been a power struggle, with the motley collection of parties occasionally working together to extend Parliament's influence.

Although the budget was blocked only once, the threat of blocking it was used extensively throughout the period to wring further concessions from the always unwilling national governments. On two occasions, Parliament blocked payment of budget rebates to Britain in an attempt to force the Council of Ministers to relinquish control over the way Community money is spent.

Overall the tactic has succeeded, whereas in 1979 the Council of Ministers was prepared to ride roughshod over the feelings of Parliament. Today it tends to pussyfoot over them. It can still usually have its way, but it has found it easier to lead a nod in Parliament's direction in drawing up its spending plans.

This became necessary when the Parliament rejected the budget in December 1979, amid scenes of euphoria. Members realized then that they had done something historic, even though they were ultimately prepared

to water down their insistence that more money be spent on policies other than agriculture. This watering down, however, did damage the Parliament's not-very-secure reputation. It was seen in the end to cave in to the agricultural lobby - an inherent weakness in its make-up. Down the years it has been a reluctant convert to austerity when the common agricultural policy was threatening to ruin the Community.

Nevertheless Parliament has managed to extend its rights to consultation in five social budgets since 1979. This is enshrined in a joint declaration with the Council and Commission signed in 1982, which limited its powers to increase the size of the budget, but which gave it the right to initiate expenditure on new policies.

Parliament has also won through the European Court a wider right to consultation for all regulations, directives and resolutions being considered by the Council. It is difficult to quantify how much, if any, effect this consultation has. Draft proposals have certainly been changed by the commission after Parliament's opinion has been given, most noticeably in the social affairs area, but there is little evidence that the Council is very moved by changes.

Some time in September the Parliament expects that its case against the Council for failing to give the EEC a proper transport policy will be heard. The case is already a lawyers' paradise, but whatever the outcome Parliament can be expected to go on using every means at its disposal to attack the Council, which it regards as the real enemy to progress in Europe.

Haiti: Delmond Chouloute

By Caroline Moorehead

Delmond Chouloute is a former soldier in his late fifties. He has been held in Port-au-Prince national penitentiary without charge, trial or permission to see a lawyer since 1979. The Haitian Government will not acknowledge that he is there.

Mr Chouloute left Haiti in the mid-1960s after threats from the Tontons macoutes militia and because he was known to oppose the views of the late dictator, Dr François Duvalier. He spent 13 years in exile in the Dominican Republic.

Prisoners of conscience

In September 1979 he returned to Haiti to visit his parents and was arrested.

It was not until 1981 that unofficial sources confirmed that he was being held with other political prisoners, several of whom are said to have been badly beaten. After four years in detention Mr Chouloute's health is believed to be poor.

Genscher fails to revive East-West dialogue in talks with Gromyko

Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, yesterday rebuffed West European hopes for renewed East-West dialogue, telling Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his visiting West German counterpart, that there was no chance of resuming the Geneva arms talks until America withdrew its missiles from West European soil.

Herr Genscher is in West Germany to meet President Cernomyr today, but diplomats said the Soviet leader was unlikely to make any concessions in the current climate. Mr Gromyko's hard-line stance comes after a series of tough Soviet actions, including withdrawal from the Olympics in Los Angeles.

This month Herr Genscher celebrated the tenth anniversary of his appointment as West Germany's Foreign Minister. Mr Gromyko, with his legendary 27 years in office, can claim even longer experience, and the two men are not expected to have any breakthroughs.

During three hours at the Kremlin, Herr Genscher urged Mr Gromyko to take up the West's offer of a resumption of the Geneva talks without preconditions. "any time, any place", Mr Gromyko responded with a stony faced attack on the

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Reagan Administration for causing the present impasse. In a move timed to coincide with Herr Genscher's arrival on Sunday, Marshal Dmitry Ustinov, the Soviet Defence Minister, affirmed that Russia would not go back to the negotiating table until cruise and Pershing 2 missiles were withdrawn, thus preempting Herr Genscher's hopes of movement on the nuclear issue.

Marshal Ustinov said the Warsaw Pact would match Nato deployments weapon for weapon, and revealed that an increased force of Soviet submarines off American waters could strike at American territory in 10 minutes or less to "counter-balance" Pershing 2 missiles in West Germany. Last week Moscow said it had stationed further missiles - believed to be SS20s - in East Germany.

Herr Genscher's visit is part of a West European effort to keep lines open to Moscow at a time of East West tension. He was preceded by the foreign ministers of Italy and Spain, and will be followed by Sir Geoffrey Howe in July.

Diplomats said the recent campaign in the Soviet press against alleged "reactionism" in West Germany was evidently an unfriendly signal in Herr Genscher. Pravda said on the

eve of his visit that there had been a sinister rise in neo-Nazi activity in West Germany.

In a sharply-worded lunch-time speech yesterday, Herr Genscher denied that any "responsible forces" in Bonn nurtured any ambition to regain German territories now in the East. "Our people have learned the lessons of history, and to cast doubt on its desire for peace is both unjust and undeserved," he said.

Herr Genscher called on the Russians to issue exit visas to the 100,000 Soviet ethnic Germans who have applied to emigrate to West Germany. He also raised the case of Dr Andrei Sakharov, the dissident physicist, who began a hunger strike in Gorky at the beginning of the month.

Diplomats said Herr Genscher had agreed with President Cernomyr's call for a ban on space weapons but was unable to offer a commitment to talks on the part of the United States. Herr Genscher sought a commitment from President Reagan in Washington earlier this month, but Mr Reagan said he could not negotiate a treaty as America had begun research into an anti-missile system in space, popularly known as the "Star wars" concept of nuclear defence.



The exiled Soviet writer, Lev Kopelev (fourth from right), at a pro-Sakharov demonstration in Bonn.

Doubt cast on health of Sakharovs

From Diana Geddes, Paris

M Claude Cheysson, the French Foreign Minister, cast doubts yesterday on the state of health of the Sakharovs. He said that Dr Andrei Sakharov and his wife, Mrs Yelena Bonner, were in a "satisfactory" state of health.

M Marchais said that he had received a letter on Saturday, in reply to his inquiry to "the highest level" of the Soviet Union, informing him that Dr Sakharov was in a hospital in Gorky, that his wife was at their home in Gorky, and that both were satisfactory.

In a radio interview yesterday, however, M Cheysson said that the information provided by M Marchais was identical to that given by Tass on Friday, which in its turn had been based, in the case of Mrs Bonner, on a medical examination carried out on April 24.

"Can we believe that the news is correct? We have no means of verifying it", M Cheysson said. "And whatever the case may be, it still remains a fact that the Sakharov couple's freedom of movement is restricted, and that Mrs Sakharov (sic) is prohibited from going to receive treatment in a place of her choice. In the French Government's view, these are two serious breaches of individual liberties."

M Lionel Jospin, First Secretary of the Socialist Party, is to see the Soviet Ambassador today to demand respect for all human rights in Russia, including those of the Sakharovs.

There is still no definite date fixed for President Mitterrand's projected first official visit to Moscow. The end of June was being considered, but it is now thought unlikely that M Mitterrand would go so long as there is no satisfactory solution to the plight of the Sakharovs.

A demonstration in support of the Sakharovs was held outside the Soviet Embassy in Paris last night on the occasion of the Nobel peace prize winner's sixty-third birthday.

A delegation of 45 MPs, each of whom has "adopted" a Soviet political prisoner, are to go to the Soviet embassy tomorrow to make a special plea on behalf of the Sakharovs.

Conflict in the Gulf Washington works behind scenes to defuse crisis

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Despite continuing attacks on international shipping in the Gulf, the Reagan Administration has made it clear that at present it is concentrating its efforts on behind-the-scenes diplomacy to defuse the crisis.

Vice-President George Bush said yesterday that the US role was "working behind the scenes" right now with many, many friends in the area.

The Vice-President, who had just returned from talks with Sultan Qaboos of Oman, ruled out American intervention in the Gulf at this stage. "I think the last thing that would be constructive would be unilateral intervention by any outside force, including the United States."

This did not mean, however, that the United States was ruling out the use of military force to keep the Gulf open to international oil traffic if the crisis worsened.

President Reagan, who has pledged to keep the Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz open, if necessary by force, will be

questioned closely on US intentions at a press conference which he is scheduled to hold at the White House tonight.

The Americans have said they will not provide air or naval escorts to international shipping in the Gulf unless requested to do so by the moderate Arab states of the region.

However, Shaikh Sabah al-Sabah, the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister, appeared to signal a readiness to accept American help when he said in a Lebanese newspaper interview at the weekend that he would "not object" to foreign military intervention. But he added that his country would not agree to US bases in Kuwait.

The crisis in the Gulf, triggered off by Iraqi and Iranian attacks on international shipping, is being discussed by Mr Richard Murphy, the State Department's Middle East expert, in Saudi Arabia. Mr Murphy had accompanied Vice-President Bush on his visit to Oman.

The United States has indicated privately that if its military assistance were required it would need land facilities in Saudi Arabia for refuelling its fighter aircraft.

The United States does, however, have four A-7s surveillance aircraft operating in Saudi airspace. It also has battle groups deployed in the Gulf and the Arabian Sea.

The main thrust of American diplomacy at present is to get Iran to accept Security Council Resolution 540, which Iraq already has done. This calls for both countries to cease attacks on each other's ports and other economic targets and reaffirms the right of free navigation in the Gulf.

In an interview with the Washington Post Mr Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, made it clear that Iraq would continue its attacks on shipping travelling to and from Iran in an attempt to persuade the Tehran Government to accept a diplomatic solution based on Resolution 540.

Nervous Japan walks diplomatic tightrope

From Richard Hanson, Tokyo

An urgent mission from the Arab League led by the foreign minister of Iraq and Kuwait arrived in Japan yesterday to explore ways of preventing any further expansion of the Iran-Iraq war, a conflict which constantly threatens to strangle Japan's vital oil lifeline to the Gulf.

Mr Shintaro Abe, the Japanese Foreign Minister, had a brief meeting with his counterparts and other members of the mission immediately after their arrival from a League meeting in Tunis on Sunday. They will continue extensive discussions today in Tokyo.

Japan, however, emphatically denies any political ambition to serve as a mediator in the worsening conflict. Japan is the only big industrial nation to maintain diplomatic ties with both Iran and Iraq.

Despite recent attacks on oil tankers in the Gulf, the Japanese Government so far has taken a low profile approach and has avoided ordering a halt to Japanese shipping in the area.

But Japan has a great deal to lose from a wider war. About two-thirds of its oil supplies must flow through the Strait of Hormuz. Worsening violence in

the Gulf has contributed to depressed Tokyo stock exchange prices and a weakening of the yen.

Japan is clearly nervous about how Iran reacts to the League's unofficial mission and in particular to the prominent role of Mr Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Foreign Minister. But the mission is being given an impeccably courteous reception, a reflection of Japan's critical dependence for economic well-being on the Arab world.

Apart from meetings with Mr Abe, the visiting League members will have talks with Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Prime Minister, the Minister of International Trade and Industry and other key politicians. They will also have an audience with the Emperor during their four-day stay.

The visit requires some delicate diplomatic footwork for Japan to maintain its strictly neutral stance. Last month as an official guest the Iranian Foreign Minister had meetings during which Iran said it would avoid stepping up the war.

For purely economic reasons Japan is determined not to offend either of the warring parties.

Israel's pledge to Iraq

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The Israelis have transmitted a guarantee via the United States to the Government of Iraq that they will not attempt to sabotage the proposed \$850m oil pipeline from the Jordanian Red Sea port of Aqaba which is in easy striking distance of the Israeli port of Eilat.

The guarantee which is seen as possibly providing Iraq with the incentive to go ahead with the pipeline plan was given after Mr Tariq Aziz, the Iraqi Foreign Minister, expressed fears in an interview with The

Times that the project might be "halted at any time" by Israel.

It is understood that the guarantee has been linked by Israel with an unusual invitation. The Israelis have used American diplomatic channels to inform the Baghdad authorities that their proposed pipeline could be extended a few miles across their border to Eilat, from where Iraqi oil could flow directly to an outlet at Israel's Mediterranean port of Ashdod through a pipeline already in existence.

Inquiry into missing major's accounts

By John O'Leary

Military police in West Germany are investigating a series of accounts in the name of a British major who disappeared from his base at Dulmen eight days ago, Major Robin Lee, aged 44, is being sought by police in Britain and on the Continent.

But the Ministry of Defence yesterday denied that the Army's Special Investigations Branch had found \$60,000 missing from the funds under the charge of Major Lee. A spokesman said the inquiry had been launched as a matter of

course when Major Lee failed to report for duty and had not yet established whether any money was missing.

Major Lee left his house a mile from the base by car last Monday, but never arrived at the Ordnance Corps depot. Neither his wife, who has been staying with friends on the base, nor his commanding officer, has heard from him since.

Although soldiers from the lower ranks often go missing, it is unusual for an officer to be

absent without leave and the Army is puzzled by his disappearance. It is thought "most unlikely" that he has defected and he is said not to have been involved with sensitive operations.

Major Lee, who has been in the Army for 26 years, was in charge of the junior ranks mess account at Dulmen, as well as separate accounts financing the library and social services. If he is found, he will appear before his commanding officer, who will decide what charges, if any, he should face.

Two Soviet agents arrested in Belgium

Brussels (Reuters) - Belgium announced yesterday that two Soviet agents were arrested at the weekend trying to obtain "highly classified" Nato documents.

The office of the Justice Minister, Mr Jean Gol, said the men had been handed over by Belgian security police to the Government for immediate expulsion. The situation of a Soviet diplomat was also being considered.

Sources familiar with the case said the two men were expected to be deported either today or tomorrow, bringing to six the number of Soviet agents expelled from Belgium in the past year. A Soviet diplomat was asked quietly to leave two months ago, but the Government did not announce his expulsion.

Vietnamese 'kill each other'

Aranyaprathet, Thailand (Reuters) - About 800 Vietnamese marines were mistakenly attacked during a heavy rainstorm by other Vietnamese in Cambodia 10 days ago and suffered heavy casualties, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front said in a radio broadcast monitored here.

The non-communist KPNLF is allied with the Peking-backed Khmer Rouge, which said yesterday its guerrillas had "destroyed" 20,000 Vietnamese troops, 35 tanks and four planes in Cambodia fighting over the past seven months.

Burma battles

Bangkok (AFP) - Karen guerrillas said they killed 203 Burmese troops while losing 40 of their own men in clashes around Karen strongholds in the past month. Most casualties, including 653 Burmese and 100 Karen wounded, were at the Mae Lah and Mae Hoi Kay camps in Burma.

Cocaine haul

Hamburg (Reuters) - West German police have seized 104lb of cocaine and arrested seven Colombians in what they called the biggest single haul of the drug ever made in the country. The drug was found on board a cargo ship carrying coffee.

Sudan penalty

Khartoum (Reuters) - Two convicted thieves had their right hands and left feet amputated publicly yesterday in the first cross-amputation carried out under Islamic law since Sudan introduced it last September. They had been found guilty of stealing more than \$57,000 worth of electric cable.

Personal touch

President Pertini of Italy, who made his first official call at the Vatican yesterday was given a warm personal welcome by the Pope. A new Concordat between Italy and the Holy See is nearing completion, and the Pope is due to return to the President's call early next month.

Delhi (Reuters) - The north-east Indian states of Assam and Tripura, where nearly a million people have been hit by floods, have issued an urgent appeal to the central Government for help. Tripura reported more than 200,000 living in camps, with food being taken in northern areas by air.

Kim stopover

Moscow (Reuters, AP) - President Kim Il-Sung of North Korea, on his way by train to Moscow, yesterday visited the Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk, birthplace of President Cernomyr, the Soviet leader. Radio Pyongyang said President Kim will also pay a visit to Poland.

Pocket TV

Tokyo (Reuters) - The Seiko watchmaking group has unveiled what it said is the first pocket-size colour television using a liquid crystal screen. Weighing 1lb, the set has a screen 21in square.

Same again

Kinshasa (Reuters) - Zaire's ruling Popular Revolutionary Movement has named President Mobutu Sese Seko as sole candidate in a presidential poll which will now be held in July instead of November.

Slim victory

Panama City (AFP) - Army-backed economist - Senator Nicolas Arango Barrientos - has been officially proclaimed the winner of Panama's presidential election on May 6 by the slim margin of 1,713 votes.

Killers of Israeli jailed for life

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

In a tense court packed with relatives and friends of the Jewish victim and of the Arab killers, an Israeli military tribunal in occupied Nablus imposed life sentences on four West Bank Arabs convicted of murdering Haron Goss, a student, in Hebron on July 7.

After the sentence was pronounced on Ibrahim Sarjil aged 26, the ring-leader, a classmate of the victim cried: "What about the death sentence? That's why there are undergrounds." He was promptly ejected.

His protest expressed a sentiment prevalent in Israeli settlements in the West Bank that official leniency on Arab terrorists had led some Jews to take the law into their own hands and to execute reprisals.

The prisoners had been legally liable to death sentences but the army prosecutor, consistent with official policy, did not request the maximum penalty. The Government of the prisoners who filled the right side of the court aisle reacted hysterically to the sentences. A mother emitted an ear-piercing shriek and fainted. Men shouted.

The victim had been an innocent pedestrian in the Hebron market place. He was stabbed by Adnan and Ziad Abu Snina on a signal from Sarjil while a Ali Al-Sabahi snatched his submachine gun.

Other prisoners not involved directly in the stabbing received lesser penalties. Two lookouts were sentenced to 25 years each, a motorist who helped in the getaway 30 years and a man who participated in the planning 10 years.

Italy lashed

Rome (AP) - Hot winds from North Africa with gusts of up to 55 mph killed a 10-year-old boy in Sicily, caused freak spring flooding in Venice, killed trees in Rome, and disrupted ferry services to Sicily and Sardinia.

Bonn denies seeking D-Day invitation

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

The West German Government yesterday dismissed as nonsense reports that it had lobbied for the participation of Chancellor Kohl in the ceremonies to commemorate the fortieth anniversary of the D-Day landings in Normandy on June 6.

A Government spokesman told a press conference here that the West German Government was not in the slightest way up to an invitation to the Chancellor to join the Queen, President Reagan and President Mitterrand on the Normandy beaches.

He said Bonn recognized that the occasion would be a time for historical reminiscence and had nothing to do with the present day situation in Europe, where West Germany played an important and positive role.

Clearly stung by suggestions, first voiced in French newspapers, that Herr Kohl had been rebuffed in an attempt to use the occasion as a public ceremony of reconciliation between the wartime enemies, the Government of the press has emphatically denied the ever low-level soundings were made to float the idea of German participation.

A senior member of the Chancellery said Bonn was fully aware of the feelings and emotions that would be involved and had never asked or suggested the Chancellor should take part.



Herr Kohl: Rebuffed, according to French press

Botha meets Angolans

From Michael Horusby, Johannesburg

Mr Pik Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, has been in talks with Angolan Government representatives in Lusaka, the South African Broadcasting Corporation reported yesterday.

The South Africans gave information about the purpose of the visit, but the meeting in Zambia came just over a week after a conference in Lusaka on the future of Namibia, attended by South Africa and the Namibian guerrilla organiza-

tion, Swapo.

The Zambian capital has been the venue for previous meetings between Angola and South Africa, agreed in February, to establish a joint commission to monitor a withdrawal of South African troops from southern Angola, where Swapo is based.

Mr Botha and the Angolans may have discussed the fourth and final phase of the withdrawal, which should have been completed by the end of March.

Military's carrot and stick tactics put strain on opposition unity

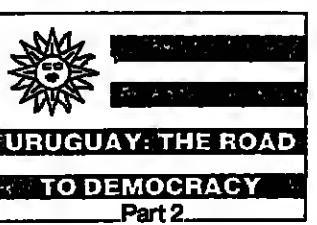
In his second and final article on the election prospects in this South American state where the military have held power for more than a decade, Douglas Tweeddale discusses the dilemma facing the opposition. A textbook case of carrot-and-stick tactics by the military Government has put Uruguay's political parties on the spot and revealed the first hint of differences between the two largest of them six months before elections are due to be held.

The military's "carrot" is the promise in 1981 to end 11 years of authoritarian rule, which began with a coup in 1973. They offer to hold elections on November 25, in exchange for civilian acquiescence in a series of unpopular constitutional reforms the generals want in place before handing over power.

The "stick" is a not-so-veiled threat to suspend the elections if these reforms are not accepted, illustrated by a sudden upsurge in arrests, press closures and paramilitary activity over the last month.

The military launched a carefully worded 16-point proposal outlining its position and calling for negotiations on May 1. The ball is now clearly in the court of the four principal opposition groups: the historical Colorado and Blanco parties, which in the past controlled about 80 per cent of

the vote, the tiny Civic Union, and the outlawed but tacitly accepted left-wing Frente Amplio Broad Front coalition. Leaders of the four parties consensus agreed to the response to the military's proposal in the weeks to come will



be crucial to the country's political future, and that the response should be united.

A four-member Multiparty Group began the task of drafting a joint civilian response two weeks ago, but tensions and tactical differences emerged almost immediately.

The Blanco Party, with its popular and charismatic leader, Senator Wilson Ferreira Aldunate, still exiled and banned from political activity, predictably takes the toughest line towards the military.

"We cannot accept even the smallest conditions on the elections," Señor Ferreira said across the river in Buenos Aires, where he has set up shop in preparation for an announced return to Uruguay in

June. (He is to announce the exact date in a speech in Argentina on May 25. The military has vowed to arrest him if he returns).

The Blanco representatives did not attend the last meeting of the Multiparty Group, and it was unclear whether they would take part in a key strategy session today. Instead, the party has launched a signature-collection drive for a petition that one Blanco leader said is "designed to show that the people support a tough line with the military, which will strengthen our position with the other parties."

At issue, among other things, is whether Señor Ferreira will be allowed to run in the November elections. Observers agree that this would be the last concession the military would be likely to make. But Señor Ferreira insists - not without reason - that elections without him "cannot be called democratic".

His detractors accuse Señor Ferreira of political expediency and egotism, pointing out that the Blanco party without him would stand little chance of winning the election. "By insisting on his candidacy, he endangers the entire election," a leader of the rival Colorado Party complained.

Señor Julio Sanguinetti, the shrewd Colorado Party candidate, has long favoured what he calls a more realistic approach.

"Flawed elections are better than no elections at all," he said in an interview last year. "There will be all the time in the world to perfect democracy later, but first we must achieve it."

Señor Luis Batlle, the second-ranking Colorado leader, said that "to demand unconditional surrender from the military at this point is not only unrealistic, it is irresponsible. We have to negotiate."

This approach draws fire from supporters of Señor Ferreira, who accuse Señor Sanguinetti of wanting to cut a deal with the military "to win an election he couldn't win otherwise".

Ironically, the nally leading political figure who appears above suspicion of political manoeuvres is the leader of the left-wing Frente Amplio coalition, Señor Liber Seregni. A former general and presidential candidate, Señor Seregni was recently released from nearly ten years in prison.

He explained that his party's position is closer to that of the Colorado Party than to the Blancos, although he vehemently opposes the military's proposed reforms.

"We are facing the most serious crisis in our history, and the only way out is through negotiations," he said.

Bonn refuses to intervene in crippling strike

German car industry faces shutdown

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

As another 33,000 workers in the Frankfurt area yesterday joined the crippling strike by West Germany's metal and engineering workers, the Bonn Government expressed serious concern at the threat to the country's economic recovery and its international competitiveness.

"This strike does not serve anyone, least of all the unemployed," a government spokesman told a press conference. But he insisted the Government was not about to intervene, and said it was up to the employers and IG Metall, the huge metalworkers' union, to decide whether to call in outside arbitrators.

About 100,000 people are now on strike or have been laid off in the Stuttgart and Frankfurt areas, and production was halted yesterday at the Opel car works outside Frankfurt. A shortage of components means that car production throughout Germany is expected to come to a halt within the next few days.

Herr Norbert Blum, the Minister of Labour, said at the weekend that if the conflict lasted a month it would cost the country DM3,900m in lost tax and social security payments. He said this would negate all the Government's efforts to save money and would reduce economic growth by an estimated 1 per cent a year.

Herr Blum said that, in the first week alone, the strike had cost some DM42m in lost contributions to pensions and social security. He estimated that about 1,600,000 workers would be laid off in the car industry when the strike begins in the next week.

The Government's warnings about the economic effects of



Funeral rites: Daimler-Benz metal-workers in Kassel symbolically bury the 40-hour week.

the dispute, which turns on the unions' call for a 35-hour week without loss of pay, have been challenged by some economists, who say lost production can largely be made up later by overtime. The unions, however, have threatened to intensify the dispute with solidarity strikes by other workers' groups if the employers proceed with lock-outs in about 65 factories in the Stuttgart area today.

The leaders of IG Metall and the employers are expected to meet today for new round of talks. Herr Hans Mayr, the union leader, said he wanted a quick end to the strike. A sticking point will be his insistence on regional negotiations, while the employers insist on a national agreement which, they say, will make it harder for the union to limit the strike to certain key areas.

Herr Mayr yesterday bitterly attacked the Government for supporting the employers' refusal, up till now, even to consider a cut in the working week. He told a large meeting of pickets outside the Opel works in Rüsselsheim that the employers and Chancellor Kohl were hand in hand in their attempt to abolish the social right to work.

The militant printing union,

IG Druck, which severely disrupted newspaper production in the country over the weekend, allowed most papers to be printed normally on Sunday night, except in the Stuttgart area where the two local papers failed to appear. The union called on workers in 55 printing plants to come out on strike again yesterday evening, so few papers are expected to appear today.

Italy wants Russian orders after gas deal

From John Earle, Rome

Italian industry expects orders of about £1 billion from the Soviet Union as the result of an expatriate in economic relations following an agreement to buy additional quantities of Soviet natural gas.

The gas agreement, which Washington tried on political grounds to quash at the time of a preliminary accord two years ago, will be signed in Moscow on Wednesday by Professor Franco Reviglio, chairman of the state energy corporation ENI.

The Soviet Government has promised that the revenue generated will be spent in Italy. Signor Nicola Capria, the foreign trade minister, is therefore flying to Moscow to sign today an economic protocol providing the framework for an increase in Soviet orders and contracts from Italy.

Italian-Soviet trade is already in deficit by 1,100 billion to 2,200 billion lire (£950m) which without the Soviet promise would only be aggravated by the gas agreement. The hope, according to a Government official, is that the Russians will now place orders of between 2,000 billion and 2,700 billion lire with Italian firms and that, eventually, the structural deficit will be reversed.

Deliveries under the new agreement of West Siberian natural gas will begin at the end of this year. Between 1992 and 2008 they will reach a peak varying between 4.8 billion and 6 billion cubic metres a year, depending on Italy's requirements.

Spain's Nato membership

Peace movement to confront González

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spain's hitherto marginal peace movement has decided to challenge the Socialist Government over Nato membership. Armed Forces Day on Sunday may provide them with their opportunity.

In an evident build-up to the military parade in the presence of King Juan Carlos, to be held this year in Valladolid, headquarters of the seventh military region, peace groups achieved a show of strength they had not expected last Sunday, when more than 60,000 people turned out in Barcelona. There were also smaller demonstrations in Zaragoza, Bilbao and Pamplona.

In Barcelona the demonstrators urged the Government to hold a "prompt and clear" referendum on leaving Nato, only 48 hours after Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, had assured Chancellor Kohl of West Germany that Spain would shoulder its share of Western defence.

The Barcelona city Socialist Party unexpectedly told its supporters to join pacifist and radical left-wing groups, as well as the Communist Party, in parading before the various Nato countries' consulates there.

The other organizations had not invited the Socialists to take part in view of the ruling party's line laid down in Madrid. But the city party publicly reminded Señor González that the last party congress had opposed both power blocks.

The peace group organizers had calculated that a turnout of 20,000 would be enough to form a 12-mile-long "human chain" through the city, but they found themselves overwhelmed when far bigger crowds temporarily took control of main streets.

Anti-militarist demonstrators numbering about 2,000 clashed on Sunday with extreme right-wingers in Valladolid, as tension began to mount before next Sunday's big parade. Local peace groups are protesting at the Government's increased defence spending, maintaining that the money should go to provide jobs for Spain's young unemployed.

The civil authorities in Valladolid have already warned that special measures have been prepared by the police, in cooperation with the army, to tackle any attempts to disrupt the parade.

Craxi budget win likely

From Peter Nicholas, Rome

Signor Bettino Craxi's coalition can reasonably expect approval by the Chamber tomorrow of its controversial anti-inflationary decree which forced the Government to call for two votes of confidence within 48 hours.

The second vote yesterday gave the Government 318 votes

in favour against 158. The two confidence votes did not, however, clear the way completely for a final division. Of the 73 opposition motions on the table, 12 remain intact and will have to be debated. It is estimated that some 10 hours of parliamentary time will be required to discuss them.

Gandhi visits scene of 'hell on earth'

From Kuldip Nayar, Delhi

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, flew to Bombay yesterday after one of the worst communal riots there since the massacres following the subcontinent's partition in August, 1947. Even while she was in the city, there were pitched battles in some districts between the Hindus and Muslims on the one hand and the rioters and the police on the other.

According to a conservative estimate, the death toll in the past five days exceeded 100. Mrs Gandhi said the riots were "a blot on India's history" and warned the people against forces trying to create instability in the country. She said that these internal forces were more dangerous than the external ones.

She flew to Bhinwadi by helicopter, where she visited a gutted farmhouse. The owner of the house broke down as he described how a mob of over a thousand armed with revolvers, swords and staves attacked his house and stabbed to death 27 people, they then dragged the bodies out, and burnt them.

Commenting on the incident the *Times of India* said in a front page article: "The roasting alive of over a score of fellow Indians is not another communal clash, it is the materialization of hell on earth."

The Army, which is protecting the Bhabha Nuclear Research Centre in Bombay, is still maintaining a low profile in the city. Official sources say that it is ready to take over if ordered to.

Greek figure saved from smugglers

From Marie Mochane, Athens

A 5ft 3in marble statue of a female figure, gracefully draped in ankle-length robes, was seized by the Greek police in Crete on reports that smugglers were negotiating its sale abroad for £2m.

The statue, probably dating from the second century BC is believed to represent the goddess Hera, sister-wife of Zeus, of Demeter, the earth goddess.

A young farmer from Ierapetra, on the southern coast of Crete, who claimed to have discovered the 600lb statue in his field, but failed to report it, was arrested and charged with violating the antiquities law.

The police apparently acted on a tip that he was allegedly negotiating the sale of the statue to dealers in Germany and Switzerland. Inquiries are now in progress to establish whether he was part of a wider antiquity smuggling ring, for which Crete was notorious in the past.

China gives pledge on UK assets

Peking (AP) - China will never touch British assets and investments in Hongkong, a senior Chinese diplomat, Mr Geng Biao, was quoted as saying yesterday.

He said Peking's plans for the British colony were in the fundamental interests of all Chinese, including the people of Hongkong, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

Mr Geng, aged 75, was speaking at the current session of the National People's Congress, China's limited legislative body. Mr Geng, who is the chairman of the Congress foreign affairs committee, was discussing the opening day report by Mr Zhao Ziyang, the Prime Minister, on plans for Hongkong.

●HONGKONG: Five more people were charged with conspiracy to defraud yesterday in connexion with the collapse last year of the Carrian business empire, the highest financial collapse in Hongkong's history (Reuters reports).

Three Marcos ministers quit after poll defeat

From David Watts, Manila

A third Philippines Minister has resigned after losing his seat in the recent election to an Opposition candidate.

Mr Teodoro Pena, Natural Resources Minister, joined the Ministers of Agriculture and Justice and the Solicitor-General in resigning "according to parliamentary practice".

President Marcos has called on all defeated ministers to resign in this way, though the Government is not strictly a parliamentary system. The President is apparently keen to show the world that democracy is alive and well in the Philippines.

In reality, all ministers will leave their posts at the end of next month prior to a reshuffle which has been pending for six months. Ministers are appointed by the President and the law requires that only three must be members of the National Assembly. The majority of ministers did not contest the election.

The weekend rioting in Cebu was investigated at a public hearing of the Commission on Elections yesterday and both Government and Opposition

parties were given three days in which to present written arguments. The rioting began after opposition contentions that it was winning five of six seats in the province, whereas official returns were indicating a clean sweep for the governing party. Though the elections were relatively clean by Philippines standards, it is now clear that the resignation of Mr Ricardo Puno, the Justice Minister, was prompted by the revelation that three ballot boxes had been delivered to election canvassers five days after the polls closed, giving rise to Opposition suspicions that the missing ballots would most probably favour the Government's candidates. Mr Puno ceased this and quickly resigned to defuse a worsening situation.

By last night official returns showed the ruling New Society Movement, with 72 seats, and the combined Opposition and independents with 40. There are 183 seats in the National Assembly to be contested and the President appoints a further 17 members.

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SPECTRUM

After the revolution, it took a year to auction the furnishings of the Palace of Versailles. It fell, as prophesied, ruined by its own opulence. Two hundred years later, reports Geraldine Norman, France is spending a fortune on restoring the glory of the palace

The fleur de lis regilded

If you ring up Versailles, the switchboard answers laconically: "Le Chateau". The definite article is significant. Even today it goes without saying that Versailles is "the chateau", not a chateau.

Indeed, it was and is far more than a chateau. From 1682 until the revolution (with a few years off during Louis XV's boyhood) it housed the king, his family, his mistresses, his courtiers and his government. Everyone who mattered in France lived there; to call even the tiniest attic your own meant that you had arrived.

Jacques Bénigne Bossuet, the seventeenth century Bishop of Meaux and famous controversialist, described it as a "city of the rich" and went on prophetically to claim that it needed no enemies, but would "fall at last, ruined by its opulence". The "city of the rich" housed up to 5,000 people. It had its own shops. Sedan chairs plied around its corridors like taxis. It took a year to auction off its furnishings after the revolution, from August 1793 to August 1794.

Today another extraordinary chapter in its history is opening. Republican France is lavishing millions on the restoration of Versailles to its former glory, together with the park and its fountains, stables, the Grand and the Petit Trianon - tiny subsidiary palaces in the park - and Le Hameau, the make-believe farming village where Marie-Antoinette, the last queen, played dairy maid with Sevres porcelain milk pails.

The aim is, to a degree, theatrical: to recreate the glittering opulence which was eventually to be the undoing of both Versailles and the ancien régime itself. The hangings for Louis XIV's bedroom were completed in 1980, having been reworked on reconstructed hand looms in Lyons. A crimson silk ground sets off a pattern woven with real gold thread, trailing tendrils of vine grow up woven columns.

A reconstructed balustrade in front of Louis's bed glitters with new gold leaf, as does the carved panelling and sculptural fantasy by Coustou, which has remained in place over the bed down the centuries and depicts "France watching over the king in his slumber". Kilograms of gold leaf have been lavished on woodwork panels, mirror and picture frames and giltwood furniture throughout the chateau. There is even talk of regilding the roof of the old central portion, where traces of eighteenth century gilding can still be seen.

The regilding is not mere theatre. It is historically correct. The woodwork and furniture was regilded every few years throughout the eighteenth century. As far as possible original panelling is being used and original furniture brought back. Where reconstructions are necessary they are painstakingly researched. Six of the original torches from the galerie des glaces are owned by Ver-

sailles, but 24 now in place are fibre glass copies finished with gold leaf. They are almost indistinguishable.

The rooms are not all sumptuous, of course, for the king and his courtiers were not always on parade. Indeed, it is some of the little rooms - the footnotes - that convey most vividly the reality of history. The little cabinet doré where Louise XV at one time kept his wigs has light-hearted exquisite carved panelling of around 1722.

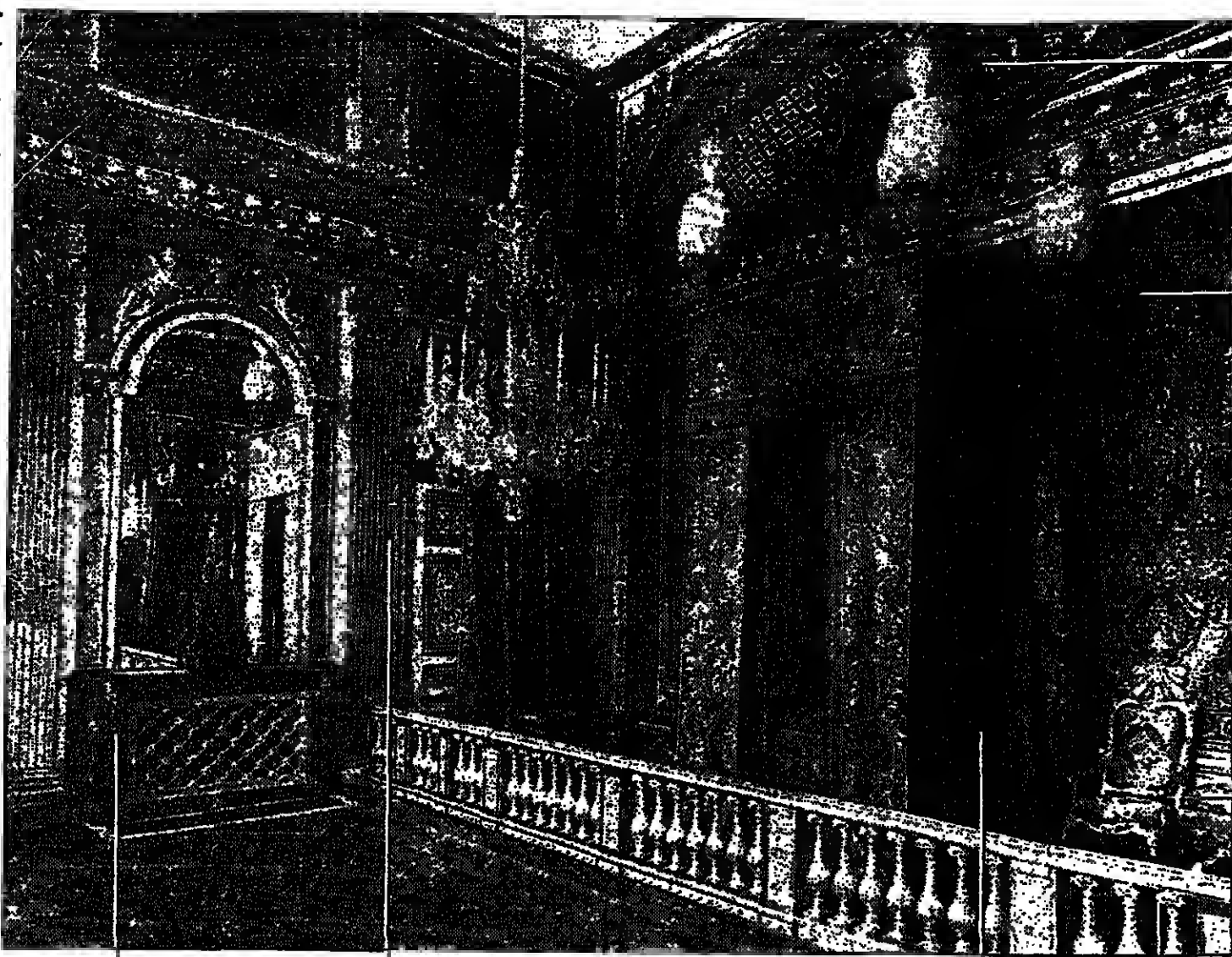
Up under the eaves are the little rooms where Louis XV escaped to entertain his friends in the evening, later taken over by his mistress, Madame du Barry. One of his great pleasures was doing without servants and there is the cupboard-like alcove where the king himself brewed coffee for his guests. He was interested in cooking and noted for the quality of his chocolates and buns. He was also a skilled ivory turner, while Louis XVI made locks - one can see his workshop.

The private rooms constantly changed their use and occupants as the decades went by and one of the major problems posed by the restoration is which era should be evoked.

The building itself was largely completed by Louis XIV who moved his protesting court there in 1682, forcing them to abandon the pleasures of Paris. He had fallen in love with Versailles as a youth when he escaped to the little chateau his father had built there for the convenience of hunting parties.

So attached was Louis XIV to the little chateau that he instructed Le Vau, his architect, to build the larger chateau round it like an envelope. After Le Vau's death, Mansart built on the two large wings to north and south to house the courtiers and princes of the blood.

Louis XV had ambitious



Fireplace in carved marble was installed in 1750 by Louis XV, replacing the original fireplace. Louis XV found the bedroom horribly cold and decided that it needed two fireplaces instead of one. By 1750 it

proved impossible to match the marble from which the original fireplace had been made, so it was ripped out and two new matching fireplaces were installed, facing each other.

Panelling dates from the first decoration of the room for Louis XVI in 1784. The room began life as the king's salon but was converted to a bedroom in 1701. The panelling with

its two tiers of classical pillars, the lower with fluted Corinthian capitals, was designed for the salon. It has been carefully restored, repainted and regilded.

Bed has been reconstructed following the detailed descriptions given in successive royal inventories conserved among the papers of the Garde-Meuble de la Couronne.

Balustrade has been reconstructed using elements of an old balustrade that had survived elsewhere in the chateau and old descriptions found in eighteenth century documents.

Sculpture has been restored and regilded. Nicolas Coustou's original fantasy depicting France watching over the king in his slumber.

Hangings on the bed and walls were reworked in silk and real gold thread in Lyons and finished in 1980. They copied a section of old brocade that had survived in the Mobilier National which seemed to correspond closely to descriptions of Louis XIV's summer hangings. His winter hangings in velvet embroidered with gold thread were getting shabby by the reign of Louis XVI who burnt them in order to retrieve the gold, obtaining 3 ingots weighing 50 kilos.

Plants or folding stools were used to fill the apartments. Under the strict court etiquette they could only be set upon by princes of the blood (ie the royal family). These plants were made by Foliot for Louis XV but come from another room. There were no plants in the bedroom in the eighteenth century.

plans for rebuilding, but luckily did not have the resources to pay for them. Gabriel built him a wing on the north side of the "envelope", the Petit Trianon and some charming summer-houses in the park. Otherwise Louis XV had to content himself with remodelling the interior of the private apartments and it is largely to his disposition that the main block is being restored.

The reign of Louis XVI is now mainly evoked by furnishings, for he made no substantial alterations. His queen, Marie-Antoinette, adorned her furniture and both her apartment and the Petit Trianon have been refurbished to reflect her taste. In the park is her farming village, Le Hameau, and the charming little theatre where she used to perform for the king and privileged friends. By some miracle, the revolutionaries bent on destroying the theatre never found it.

The revolutionary mob drove Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette out of Versailles in October 1789. It had fallen at last, "ruined by its opulence", and was never again inhabited by a king. Napoleon restored and used the Grand Trianon (built by Louis XIV), and its present rich furnishings are of this period. It is now used by President Mitterrand for receptions and important guests. The

Queen has stayed there on state visits. After the restoration of the monarchy in 1814 plans were afoot to demolish Versailles, which had fallen into disrepair. But it was saved by Louis-Philippe, the bourgeois king. It was the period when Walter Scott, Dumas and others had conjured up a new romantic interest in history. Louis-Philippe, at his personal expense, transformed Versailles into a vast museum dedicated to the history of France.

He ripped out the exquisite eighteenth-century panelling to open up large ponderous galleries and lowered the court de marbre in front of the chateau, ruining proportions. By the end of the nineteenth century, fashions had changed and nobody was interested in his museum any more.

The story of the restoration properly begins with Pierre de Nolhac, who was appointed curator in 1887. One hundred years after the departure of Louis XVI the layout of the chateau, who lived, slept, caroused and died there, had been thoroughly forgotten.

De Nolhac set himself the task of rediscovering and published the fruits of his research in a series of books which provided the first important ingredient of the restoration.

The next ingredient was money. After the depredations of the First World War, the Rockefeller Trust gave \$700,000 towards the restoration. It was largely spent on structural repair, but there was an earnest of things to come in the restoration of Marie-Antoinette's little theatre at Rockefeller's personal request.

After the Second World War it took a scandal - "it is raining in Versailles" shouted the newspapers, referring to the leaking roof - to stir national pride. But once stirred, the response was magnificent. Long term finance for restoration had to be voted by parliament and in 1952 they voted five billion francs (about £5m) for a five year programme. In 1962 eight billion (about £8m) and in 1978 20 billion francs (about £20m).

The first programme covered the repair of the roof and windows, the grands appartements, the galerie des glaces and the opera, the second the Grand Trianon and the stables. The third, which should be completed towards the end of this year, covers the restoration of 160 rooms, including the king's private apartment, rooms in the Grand and Petit Trianon and some 50 or so rooms of Louis-Philippe's Musée d'Histoire.

In addition to public funding, individuals have made donations in cash and furnishings on a majestic scale. Barbara Hutton, the Woolworth's heiress, visited Versailles only once, but wrote out a cheque for \$1m. Gerald Van der Kemp, the curator who retired in 1980, had an American wife and was master in the art of fund raising. A roll of honour in the vestibule records the names of all the donors.

Van der Kemp's successor, Pierre Lemaignan, watches lovingly over the restoration today, working closely with the resident architect, Jean Dumont. He has raised the cour de marbre to restore its proper proportions to the old facade, replaced the pillars supporting the balconies before the old windows in pinkish-purple Languedoc marble.

The aim, as M. Lemaignan explains it, is to give the public a vision of Versailles as it was on that October day in 1789 when the king and queen fled. Nowhere is this more poignant than in the queen's bedroom where her silk summer hangings, a riot of flowers on an ivory ground, have been reworked from the original designs.

Some flexibility has been allowed, however, so that other epochs can show through. The grand appartement du roi, the series of magnificent reception rooms where the court gathered for its evening entertainment, were more or less untouched by Louis XV and Louis XVI and are today the main showpiece for the original seventeenth century decoration. The ceiling paintings have been cleaned and the baroque plaster-work regilded; famous paintings, tapestries and furniture have been returned. The exception is the galerie des glaces, or hall of mirrors, where the decor used for the marriage of the Dauphin to Marie-Antoinette in 1770 has been reconstructed, with 20 silvered bronze and Bohemian crystal chandeliers rather obscuring Le Brun's famous ceiling paintings, an allegorical celebration of Louis XIV's reign.

The availability of original panelling or furniture can often dictate the choice of epoch for a particular room or even just the survival of designs. In the grounds of the Petit Trianon a Louis XVI summerhouse has been rebuilt from scratch because the panelling was found. M. Lemaignan emphasizes that every stage in the restoration programme reflects a temporary

choice. This is the best they can do at present. Perhaps it will be changed at a later date when more money, more panelling, furniture, information... has been found.

The best time to visit Versailles is mid-week in summer, when guided tours of all the restored areas are available. Ideally, three or four days should be allowed, not including Monday when Versailles is closed for the day.

OPENING
Grands Appartements (the main reception rooms): can be visited every day, with or without a tour.

Grand Trianon (the main reception rooms): as above.
Appartement du Roi, Opéra: guided tours every five minutes in summer (Easter to October), every 15 minutes in winter.

Madame du Barry's apartment: guided tours on weekdays.
Madame de Maistre's apartment and the cabinet interiors de la reine: guided tours on weekdays.

Grand Trianon (private rooms): guided tours on weekdays in summer.
Petit Trianon, Marie-Antoinette's theatre and the Pavillon français: guided tours on weekday summer afternoons.

moreover...
Miles Kington
OK, baby slithe out of this

Interactive literature is the name of the new game: letting the reader rewrite a book in the author's words. As usual, Moreover Enterprises are one step ahead of the game - we're computing famous works in other authors' words.

Interested? Here's a small sample for you which the computer did in his sleep last night: Raymond Chandler's version of *Jabberwocky*.

"I was brilliant. It had been that way all day, and it wasn't getting any cooler. I had possessed my neck-tie so many times that the knot had worked its way down to my navel. Outside in the street the first lights had come on and the slithy toves were doing whatever they do in the wabe. Some days they gyre, some days the gimble. It's no skin off my nose, but I wish they'd make their minds up, then we could all rest easy."

Five o'clock, and I still had a customer. The paper cup on my desk looked dry, so I eased some Bourbon into it. I heard a serech of brakes outside; some mome rath had decided to outrange and was paying for it. The pot of borogoves on my window-sill looked a little mimsy, so I poured half the Bourbon down my throat and the other half into the pot, figuring that it would be nice to share a drink with someone, even if only a borogove.

Then there was a knock at the door. I emerged from uffish thought and told the owner of the knock to come and join me. The door opened and there stood a young man with money written all over his face, the sort of nervous young man who has grown up in the shadow of a millionaire father and dreads the moment when Daddy tells him to take over.

"Mr Marlowe, there was no law against being Mr Marlowe. I need your help. My father has asked me to deal with the Jabberwock, and I simply don't know how to go about it. You know the Jabberwock?"

Everyone knew the Jabberwock. It was a club on Ocean Parade, the sort where you went in rich and came out poor. They had a singer there called Jubjub who was reputed to eat him for breakfast and if being eaten for breakfast is your idea of a good time, then she was the girl to get in touch with. Personally, I prefer wrestling with anacondas.

"I'm engaged to be married to a girl called Frabjous. My father disapproves... do you know what time she's in?"

He put down a large gold coin on my desk. I looked at it. It was a large gold coin.

"It's a banderolero," I said. "Only a hundred men know to exist. They're very valuable, except when they're found, and then they're even more valuable indeed. This one is famous. What's it got to do with the Jabberwock?"

To cut a long story short, I went out to the Jabberwock that night, killed the Jabberwock, and went home a hero. The young man who had been eaten for breakfast by my father, but his father seemed to like the way things had turned out. Frabjous, he called it. He even embraced his beaming boy, and you could tell from the latter's expression that this hadn't happened in a long while.

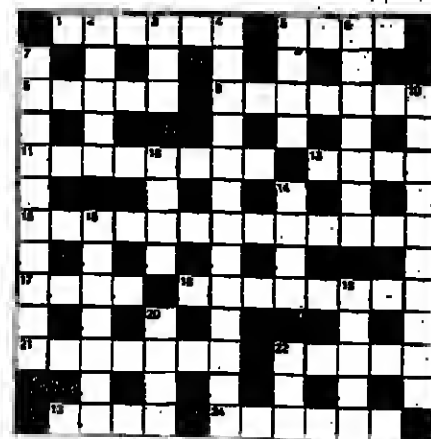
"I don't know how to thank you, Marlowe," he said, chortling slightly.

"Don't bother," I said. "Just leave me the banderolero." He did, and they both left, hand in hand. It's always nice to reunite father and son, even if it means leaving old Marlowe alone with a pot of borogoves. I poured myself a measure of Bourbon and listened to the toves gyring outside. Maybe they were gimbling. It's hard to tell, especially when you don't give a damn either way. I ran a finger round my collar. 'Twas brilliant. The borogoves looked mimsy on the window-sill. I gave them the ice and took all the Bourbon myself.

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 348)

- ACROSS**
1 Rich cake (6)
5 Main party (4)
8 Furinus (5)
9 Table bottles (7)
11 Deceptive (8)
12 Sound reflection (4)
15 Heliothere (9,4)
17 Further (5)
18 Invigorate (8)
21 Cook insufficiently (7)
22 Make confused (5)
23 Book number system (1,1,1,1)
24 Ridiculing humour (6)

- DOWN**
2 Blacksmith's block (5)
3 Finish (3)
4 Without formality (13)
6 Welsh poet (4)
6 In fact (2,5)



- 7 Welsh Nat Party (5,5)
10 Salisbury Plain circle (10)
12 Sliding window (4)
14 Govt loan need (1,1,1,1)
16 Altar wall screen (7)
19 Deduce (5)
20 Smile (4)
22 Ballgame club (3)

SOLUTION TO No 347
ACROSS: 1 Orpington 4 Manacle 8 Parer 9 Hurling 10 Graffiti 11 Skin 13 Capillaries 17 Ark 18 Gynymeds 21 Enraged 22 Hovel 23 Pompeii 24 Sisny
DOWN: 1 Oppugn 2 Larva 3 Paraffin 4 Mahatma Gandhi 5 Norm 6 Cricket 7 Engine 12 Sisnyphus 14 Anagram 15 Made up 16 Medley 19 Eaves 20 Ogle

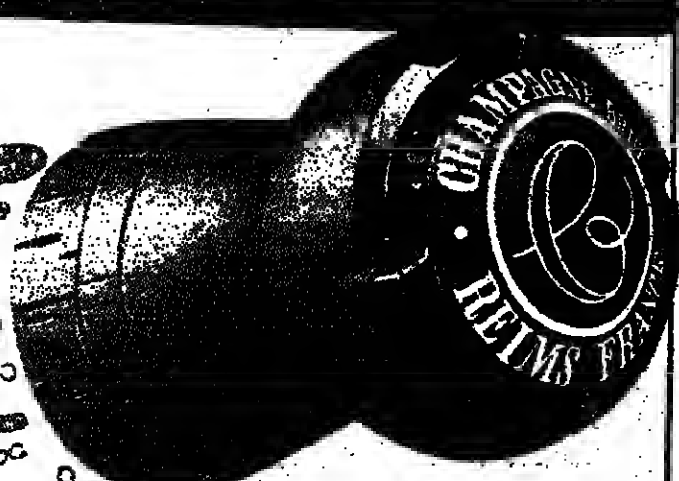
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FASHION by Suzy Menkes

Fashionable London this week sees a major museum opening and an important social event. The Court Dress Collection at Kensington Palace shows the history of royal fashion. Opera star Luciano Pavarotti, who sang at a royal gala on Sunday, discusses his own style



On with the regalia

Tomorrow afternoon, Princess Margaret opens the family wardrobe. In it lie the skeletons of white feathers, the gilded treasures of embroidered livery and sweeping velvet trains measured to the last inch.

The new Court Dress Collection is housed in a wing of Kensington Palace, appropriately adjoining the private royal apartments. Curator Nigel Arch has worked for two years to gather, research and display the grand gowns and magnificent uniforms that underpinned the majesty of the Crown. The laces and drawing rooms of the past are recreated in striking and emotive tableaux, with ghostly figures peopling the sumptuous costumes.

In the Red Saloon (now restored to magnificent splendour) stands the tiny figure of Queen Victoria attending her first Accession: Privy Council. Two other historic rooms are newly opened to the public including the green silk bedroom, overlooking the lush green of Kensington Gardens, where Princess Victoria was reputedly born.

As Princess Margaret walks round the exhibition, she too will be entering an extraordinary, historic and unfamiliar world. She herself has never worn court dress except for the long lace gown decorated with silver bows, the ermine trimmed cloak and gilded coronet (made out of tulle) by a theatrical costumier that she and her sister wore for their father's coronation in 1937. (Princess Elizabeth, in deference to her destiny, had the same dress with a tiny train.)

By the time that the two royal children were playing at court ritual in their Christmas pantomimes at Windsor, four centuries of court dress had been blacked out by the war. At the Queen's Coronation in 1953, all the female members of the Royal Family and the ladies-in-waiting wore the pale evening gowns that are now the accepted dress for ceremonial.

The court dress collection recreates the vanished world. The entrance area sets the scene: an upper crust couple stiff with feathers and formality, pose for a 1920's court photographer, the symbolic feathers (two for a maid, three for a matron and the Prince of Wales) are shown in delicate fashion plates; the elaborate trains are the subject of mirth and derision in a Punch cartoon.

The first costumes, set behind a perspex screen like a magic window, show the beginning of the ritual, when the men's flower-embroidered frockcoat waistcoats were living fashion rather than an ossified ritual. Court dress fossilized style (rather as Queen



Above: Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret Rose play at court ritual in 1941
Top: Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II, evening gowns are worn

Mary kept to her ankle-length skirt). This is one of the themes of Nigel Arch's display. So is his sense of the costumes as part of social history, against the contemporary background.

"I am interested in formal dress, but in order for uniforms to come to life they need an atmosphere," says Nigel Arch of the gentlemen's club room, complete with hush of Victoria, chess set and historic copy of the *Times*. This is the setting for the braided and embroidered uniforms from the Aubrey Bowden collection, on loan from the Queen, which formed the core of the collection that Nigel Arch inherited exactly two years ago in May 1982. The project (masterminded by the Department of the Environment) grew out of the space vacated by the Museum of London which had moved to the Barbican along with the collection's first curator Valerie Cunningham.

The uniforms designed by the sartorially obsessive Prince Regent, were the foundation of the grand Civil Service and Royal Household liveries. The last vestiges can still be seen in the brave glitter of colonial governors-general and the fancy trimmings of ambassadors presenting their credentials.

Women at court were reflections of their husbands' wealth and status.

The 12-ft trains flicked round corners by the courtiers' white wands emphasized the role of women as court chaperons. (By the 1920s the independent-minded debutantes could go to Harvey Nichols for a train ingeniously designed to be non-trip on the perilous path to Presentation.)

The research and restoration of the women's costumes is in the hands of the assistant curator Joanna Marschner, who has measured up and spread out the trains as meticulously as any court floukey. Replicas of jewels (one way of imposing individuality among the regulations) have been especially made in period with the dresses. I saw the wig-maker wrapping loops of plaits round the dummy head of Queen Victoria's mother, the Duchess of Kent, whose court dress is on display.

The success of the exhibition is to show the clothes in their habitat, especially the decorative nineteenth century display against a tumbling trellis wallpaper and a floral carpet (both especially designed) with period paintings from the Royal collection.

The double drawing room of the Edwardian era is also a splendid recreation by the exhibition's interior designer Pamela Lewis, whom I met coaxing gilded plaster work pelmet on to the Victorian windows, and who has

produced carpet designs that put a change of period at your feet. The froth of cream lace and brocade, offset by milky pearls, the white and gold room set and the Prince of Wales feathers in the Edwardian rooms, are the public image of the Royal Court.

The orders and decorations that are still an intrinsic part of court dress are represented mainly by the masculine livery, where Lord Twining in his GCMG contrasts with other uniforms and liveries. A royal academician in mole black velvet is particularly fetching. On the two coronation robes of Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, you can spot the pin pricks and fastening loops on the left shoulders where orders glittered.

The twentieth century is less grand, with shortened skirts (odd with the train), pale biscuit lace set against cream striped wallpaper. It was the beginning of the end, although the rules governing the depth of neckline (very low) and length of train (very long) were more rigidly enforced during the reign of the punctilious George V and the redoubtable Queen Mary than at any earlier period.

Given the immense fuss caused by Lady Diana Spencer's low-cut black dress in the summer of 1981, it is laughable to learn that a doctor's dispensation plus the Lord Chamberlain's approval once had to be given to the old and infirm at Court to permit the wearing of a high neckline.

A vivid vignette of the Victorian Court is given in a new book by Anne Somerset. She describes how maids of honour were expected to be on call by day to drive out with the Queen or to look after visiting guests and then to entertain with a song in the evening.

The ladies of the bedchamber chaperoned the maids of honour, endured boredom and discomfort in the name of duty, and even postponed their weddings for Her Majesty's convenience. "The dullness of our evenings is a thing impossible to describe," grumbled one maid of honour in 1849. Another in 1869 had just invested in a new tweed suit for chill evenings at Balmoral when the death of the King of Portugal plunged the court into mourning. "And he was only a first cousin once removed!" she wailed. "It is a lesson never, never to buy anything but black."

It is such an extraordinary world. That is what we enjoy about the display," says Nigel Arch, who spent Sunday with Joanna Marschner polishing the show cases and straightening those lake pools of velvet trains.

Princess Margaret has just one childhood memory of the cars at the door and her mother's train inching slowly, very slowly, out of the door and into fashion's history.

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* Ladies-in-Waiting by Anne Somerset. 112 pages, £12.50.
The Court Dress Collection, Kensington Palace is open to the public from Thursday May 24, Monday to Saturday 9.5, Sunday 1-5. Admission £1.50.



Luciano Pavarotti: time in his hands and royals on their feet. Photograph: HARRY KERR



On with the motley

The Princess of Wales, resplendent in silver and white, jumped to her feet on Sunday night to applaud Luciano Pavarotti. Three times she led the entire opera house in a standing ovation to the Italian tenor.

"Your music brings tears to my eyes," said Prince Charles in a spontaneous tribute afterwards at the dinner, hosted by Dr Aldo Gucci, who had dreamt up with the Prince the idea of bringing his friend Luciano in for a concert in aid of the Royal Opera House development appeal. For one night, singing from Verdi and Gluck to *O Sole Mio*, surrounded by ambassadors, the music establishment, friends and admirers, Pavarotti was king.

Off stage he tried for size Queen Victoria's gilded chair from the Royal Box at Covent Garden. "Too big," he said with a merry smile as he eased his ample frame into the red plush. "Anyway, I don't want to be the king. I am just an ordinary working man."

He looks like an artist - like Cavaradossi from *Tosca* - in his striped smock and flamboyant kerchief. His hobby is painting: one whole room of his mansion in Modena is devoted to his canvases. They celebrate, he says, "the unbelievable joy of colour".

He feels Italian, he says. He eats Italian food (in between dietary salads) and still lives in the close-knit town "Modena is very sophisticated and very, very rich" where he grew up in a nest of woman relatives.

Italian men, he says, are supposed to be tyrannical and jealous, but how can he rule over his monstrous regiment

this wife and daughters, two sisters, four secretaries? How could he personally sing Otello when he does not understand what it means to be jealous?

His image as sensitive family man is in contrast to the libretto he played out on his last professional visit to London, when he abandoned *Tosca* for a paradise island holiday.

His personal image is still flamboyant, a fob watch (he collects them) pinned to his shirt that glows with garnet red piping and jade green weave. "Missoni colours," he says, citing the artistic Tai Missoni as one of his best friends (along with Aldo Gucci) in the world of Italian design. For women he likes the colour and pattern of the Italy of Emilio Pucci. He adores flowered fabrics and during his stay in London (he is here for five performances of a new production of *Aida* at Covent Garden) he is searching for a four-poster bed complete with ebony bannings.

"I think I have great taste in choosing for other people," he says. "From my painting I have a great sense of colour. But for myself all that I try to do is to look clean. The word 'elegant' never crosses my mind. I don't think I have the body for it. That is my excuse."

His mother worked (in a nice coincidence with Carmen) in a cigar factory. His father was a baker and the possessor of a strong tenor voice which Luciano has inherited. Pavarotti dates his other private love affair, horse riding, from the family's wartime move to the Italian countryside.

"My passion," he says, "is to see them jump." His only attempt to impose his paternal will on his three daughters was to send them to a riding school in Dublin. He himself learned to ride in London's Hyde Park.

But his life is his music and the international superstar circuit that has brought him immense wealth. His itinerant schedule means a flat in New York, a benefit in San Francisco, *Aida* in Vienna and a phone bill for calling home that costs more than his hotel suite.

Despite his full-hearted commitment to music and his passionate voice he claims that he does not have a swollen head or harbour dark fears for the future when his "gift from God" loses its tremendous power. He plans to teach singing. "I have to be one hundred per cent involved," he says. "But I am happy that music does not take the human part away from me."

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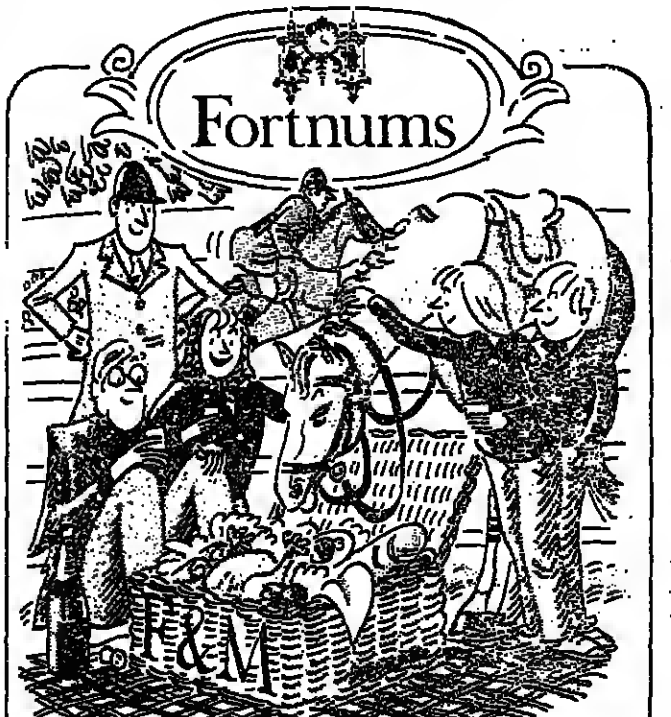
Left: Nigel Arch, Curator of the Court Dress Collection with two of the uniforms on show in a Victorian club setting. Right: decorative court dress with sweeping train at the Victorian court drawing room with period wallpaper, carpets and furnishings. Below: fashion plate of court dress 1882



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VANESSA'S DIARY

Sat. Took family to Hickstead. One horse showed excellent taste by having a nibble at our Fortnum's fresh picnic hamper. The smoked salmon comes and the profiteroles obviously did him good - he cantered off and jumped two clear rounds. Well, who wouldn't?

Always feel summer is really here when the hampers and champers season starts. Made a list of some events which require a super picnic hamper from Fortnum's - Glyndebourne - Derby Day - Royal Ascot - Henley - Goodwood. Must send for leaflet describing Fortnum's scrumptious fresh food hampers, and remember to order in plenty of time.

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THE ARTS

Cannes Film Festival
Absorbing creation

The big show of the 1984 Cannes Festival was the world premiere of Sergio Leone's *Once Upon a Time in America*, with seats selling for charity at 400 francs apiece. The sometime master of spaghetti westerns has moved to the east to make a panorama of 40 years of New York gangster life. Unlike *The Godfather*, Leone's epic is concerned with the Jewish tradition of organized crime.

Leone follows a time-honoured formula for gangster films with a melodrama of loyalty and betrayal, following the lives and careers of two boyhood friends through three eras: the ghetto slums of the 1920s, the apogee of the prohibition, 1930s, and the aftermath in the 1960s, with the losers in exile and the winners in high political places.

The two men are played by Robert De Niro and James Woods. But this is a film in which the staging and setting, the whole *mise-en-scène*, are more important than the plot, drama, or individual performances. We have never before seen so much of the film (filmed in Montreal) same still for almost the same period of the 1930s.

The film's steady, thrilling and dramatic pace, its distribution, and its nervy about 170 minutes (22 minutes), but Leone's epic demands this spread of canvas.

David Robinson

Television
Sentimental realist

Really (Channel 4) continues one of the central traditions of television comedy by transforming Liverpool into the material of music-hall — complete with comic patter, farce, social satire, and even melodrama. Alan Bleasdale's scripts are better than most, however, and the character of Scully, forever dreaming of football triumphs, is far enough away from Billy Liar to be interesting.

Some of the grotesques, like the alcoholic grandmother, are also worth watching although perhaps they mix uneasily with the programme's sentimental realism.

Africa (Channel 4) opened with illustrations of some sculpture created eight centuries ago. These works were assumed to be by wandering Europeans

● Zubin Mehta, Yehudi Menuhin, Nathan Milstein and Sir Michael Tippett are among the artists taking part in a concert to mark the twenty-first anniversary of Menuhin's school, at St James's Palace tomorrow.

Peter Ackroyd

Rococo Art and Design in Hogarth's England
Victoria and AlbertWedgwood in London
Wedgwood HouseMasterpieces of Wedgwood
British Museum

The Rococo style

The Rococo style, which began in France in the 17th century, was a reaction against the formalism of the Baroque. It was characterized by its lightness, grace, and asymmetry. In England, it was introduced by the French and became popular in the 18th century. The style was reflected in architecture, furniture, and decorative arts.

Integration is what this otherwise exhaustive and carefully assembled exhibition (until September 30) fails to convey, although the variety and profusion of the contents are unquestionable. The designer Brian Griggs seems overwhelmed by his material, and the gloomy reconstruction of the 'Rococo' style, which is not well represented in the exhibition, is a pity. However, the exhibition is a valuable record of the Rococo style in England.

Francis Hayman, however, does manage to impart a certain sense of the Rococo style in his work. The exhibition is a valuable record of the Rococo style in England.

Gravelet's most important contribution to the development of the Rococo in England.



Pierre Langlois and from Wedgwood in London. Queen's Ware was designed by Norman Minton for the 1951 Festival of Britain.

The exhibition is a valuable record of the Rococo style in England. It features a variety of objects, including furniture, decorative arts, and architecture. The exhibition is a valuable record of the Rococo style in England.

Some of the furniture, such as that made by James Pascal, is of the 18th century. The exhibition is a valuable record of the Rococo style in England.

Rouhiac never flatters his sitters, frankly portraying the ugliness of Martin Folkes, for example, in the bust lent by the Earl of Pembroke, but he gives them visible authority and, as the happy juxtaposition of the marble bust of Pope (Earl of Rosebery collection) with the terracotta model (Barber Institute of Arts, University of Birmingham) demonstrates, nothing is lost in the transfer to the less tractable medium.

By the time that George III ascended the throne, the revolution against the Rococo was already under way; the new king had been educated as an

Galleries

A fascination with 'French and frippery'

Englishman, and resentment of French cultural influence was intensified by the burgeoning imperialism that was soon to find expression in the Seven Years' War and the consequent acquisition of Canada and India. A new style was emerging throughout Europe to take the place of the Rococo, based on a renewed interest in classical antiquity, partly stimulated by the publication of the discoveries made at Herculaneum and Pompeii.

Later dubbed Neoclassicism, it was perceived as a purification of taste and involved the rejection of the voluptuous

Dance
Once upon a time...The Magic Cloak
Dominion

When recollected in tranquillity, perhaps *The Magic Cloak* will no longer seem absolutely the silliest ballet I ever saw, but it is a strong contender. There is, by the way, no cloak in it that must be a mistranslation for the handsome red jacket with which the fairy Rosabelle transforms the little monster Zaches, so that everyone thinks he is lovely.

The Magic Cloak is a ballet by the Dominion Theatre. It is a story of a fairy who transforms a monster into a handsome prince. The ballet is a strong contender for the title of the silliest ballet I ever saw.

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Jeffery Daniels

John Percival

Concerts

Brassy brilliance

YMSO/Blair
Barbican

Enticingly subtitled "Spotlight on Brass", this Young Musicians' Symphony Orchestra concert was actually the aural equivalent of a blinding battery of lights shining full in the face all evening. Each of the three substantial pieces featured the brass of the YMSO at full blast and a very impressive noise it would have been had there not been quite so much of it. But, by the time the splendidly rasping, pagan fanfares of Janacek's *Sinfonietta* came round for the last time, I was ready to confine my lifetime's future to listening to solo cello music.

The evening's rarity was Shostakovich's music for a 1951 film called *The Unforgettable Year 1919*, arranged into a concert suite by Lev Atoumian; it may have been unforgettable but the music certainly was not, and it is difficult to think that Shostakovich, who turned out this sort of thing by the yard to keep peace with the authorities while working on real music like his Fourth String Quartet, would have been pleased by its revival.

There are undeniably effective moments: the brooding unison start of the *Intermezzo*, with rumbling timpani, and the relaxed clarinet melody of the

Romance. But in the central 'Assault on Beautiful Gorky' Shostakovich seems to be having a harmless dig at Rachmaninov with his striding melody over pounding piano arpeggios, and elsewhere the idiom is near to self-parody.

Still, well worth hearing once, and in context — like Shostakovich's music for the superb Russian film of *Hamlet* — it may well have fulfilled its purpose precisely.

After the unremitting vigour of the film music's 'Call to Arms', some relaxation might have been in order, but we were plunged into Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*, in Elgar Howarth's brilliant and ingenious transcription for brass ensemble. With excellent flugelhorn solos, and only a couple of misses in the horrendously demanding trumpet parts, this was a sharply observed and often biting promenade.

James Blair often seemed in the course of the evening to be over-energetic in conducting his extremely capable forces, urging them to excessive passion. He attained a fine natural string sound in the Shostakovich, but the Janacek was less convincing, and the atmospheric start of the finale sounded distinctly unsettled. But soon the fanfares were back and everyone was at ease.

Nicholas Kenyon

Luciano Pavarotti
Royal Opera House

The *Ingenisco*, Verdi's Requiem lament for past misdeeds, was, nicely, the high point of the evening, as the white handkerchief waved in truce, and Pavarotti took over the Royal Opera stage once more.

The gala concert, given in aid of the Royal Opera House Development Appeal and in the presence of the Prince and Princess of Wales, began with *La traviata*, Pavarotti's own debut opera. This voice, which knows no bounds and restrictions, gave us 'De'miei bollenti spiriti' as fit, in its direct spontaneity, for a street corner in Naples (where it returned in the encores) as it was for such a right royal occasion.

Turning from a none too *furtiva lagrima* to *Un ballo in maschera*, Pavarotti sliced through the air with a new, haunted tension in his voice in the compelling introduction to 'Ma se m'e forza perderti'. The art of it all, of course, centres on a complete and fearless identification with the heart of each matter, even entirely out of context. And the sheer reserves of strength which circled out from *Luisa Miller*'s 'Quanda le sere al placido' provided its own miraculous short-cut.

It is only rarely that Werther has the horsepower to make Massenet's vocal line exciting as well as beguiling, as we were

reminded in 'Pourquoi me reveiller'. And it is equally rarely that the Royal Opera Orchestra can be persuaded to sound quite so much like the *carabinieri* on a feast day as they did under Garcia Navarro in the cunningly temperature-raising Rossini and Verdi overtures.

An exquisitely played 'Dance of the Blessed Spirits' gave the flautist Andrea Crimellini the chance to make a memorable British concert debut, and Pavarotti the excuse to prove what a jolly good tune Gluck wrote in 'Che farò'. Later, Griminelli's own delightfully circling, lip-tingling arrangement of 'The Flight of the Bumble-Bee' vied as a sheer tour de force with the encores, generously distributed, from the tiny frozen hand to the Neapolitan cornetto.

Hilary Finch



Burke's Pezage Publications announce the publication of their up-to-date Pezage in Spring 1985, with vital new appendices and comprehensive cross-reference systems added. Advertising by invitation only. Registration and order forms dispatched and May for completion and July. Pre-publication price £60.00. Enquiries to Peter Townsend, Dept A, 1 Hay Hill, London, W1.

BURKE'S PEZAGE

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Ben is being cared for in one of the special centres for mentally handicapped children. He has been there for half of his life and even though he is nearly twelve his speech is comparable to an infant's. But year by year a steady improvement is obvious. He may never be able to speak perfectly but with proper care his ability to communicate, as well as other talents he may have, will be encouraged and developed to a greater extent than perhaps believed possible.

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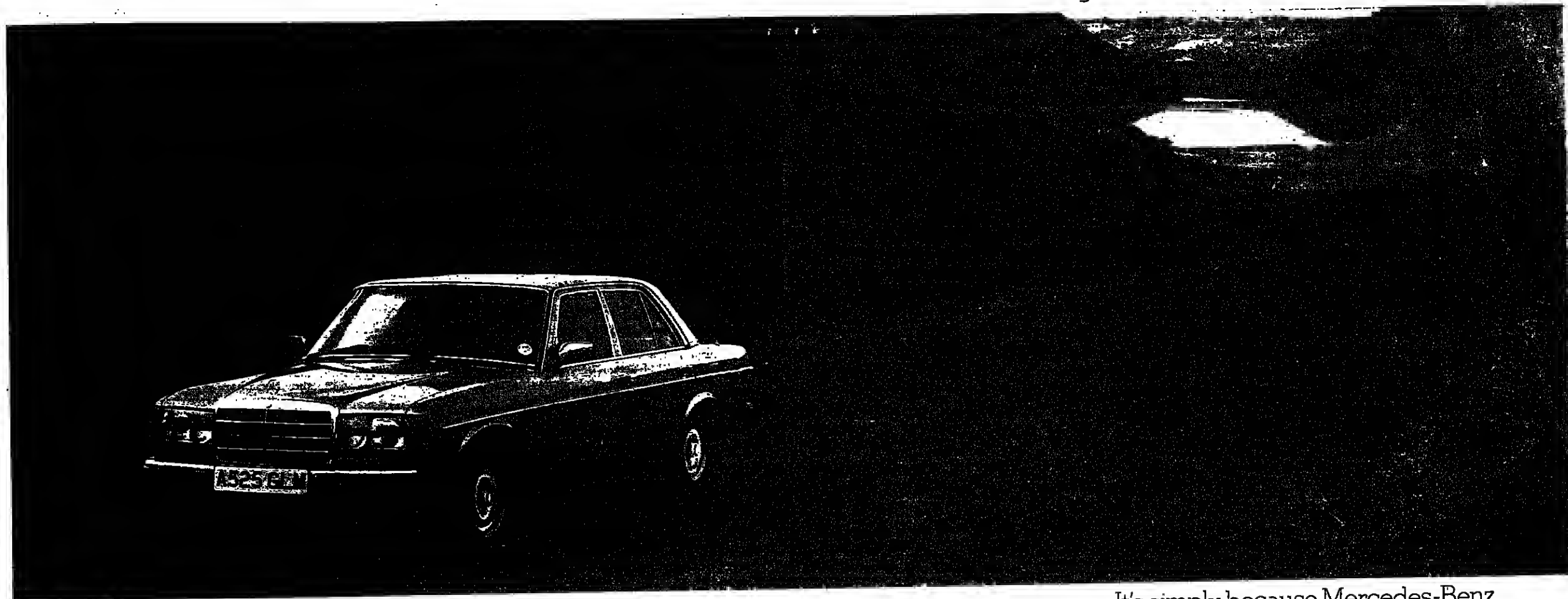
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THE TIMES DIARY

Profumo to the rescue

John Profumo, the once disgraced War Minister, emerged yesterday as a war hero. The incident came to light at the Chelsea Flower Show, where Profumo was accepting a pink rose named after Toybee Hall - the home to which he has devoted the past 20 years. The deathly dull ceremony was suddenly interrupted by a sprightly 77-year-old Chelsea pensioner, Sergeant Tom Nash, who



Chelsea reunion: Profumo and Nash.

rushed forth shouting: "Major Profumo, Major Profumo, thank you for saving my life." The gathered worthies were agog, as was Profumo. Nash then regaled all with the story of how Profumo heroically hoisted him from a crater during a bombing raid in Algeria, back in 1942. Profumo remembered everything, as he always did.

Testing trip

Lord Rothschild has let slip some highly confidential results of his much-lamented "Two Extra Gins" test, which he set as former head of the Government's Think Tank to enable ministers to assess whether they were in a fit state to take decisions. In an interview with my colleague Peter Hennessy he names Lord Carver, former Chief of the Defence Staff. "Every time he tried my test after a long trip, whatever it might have been, and perhaps a couple of Martinis on the aeroplane, he got 97 out of 100." Despite the accolade, Lord Carver was not amused when I told him yesterday of Lord Rothschild's indiscretion. "Victor set it because he was horrified at the way some ministers took decisions. ... He said quite firmly at the time the results would be extremely confidential." So is Lord Carver a Martini man? "Certainly not," Scotch and gins? "Depends on the time of day."

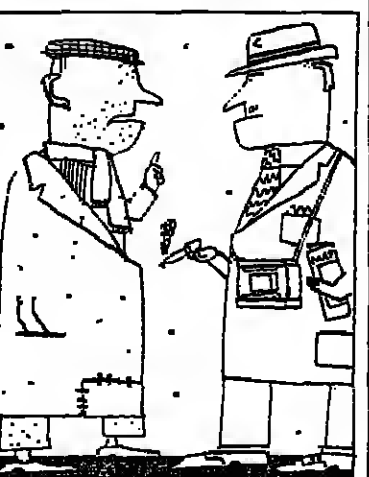
Soap mountain

Euro-MP Barry Seal has tabled a motion backing a £200,000 fund to set up a Euro-style rival to the American *Dallas*. Bill Cotton, managing director of BBC TV, has been flown to Brussels to discuss the idea with the Commission's vice-president, Etienne Davignon; the BBC is predictably keeping quiet about it. Where are they thinking of locating Southfork? "If not the European Assembly or the Commission, NATO would make a good setting," says Seal. "But I'm not sure there would be enough sex." A member of the cast of *Brookside*, Britain's downmarket *Dallas*, was dubious about a "soap-opera version of *A Song for Europe*." Barbara Castle as Miss Ellie? Suggestions on a postcard please.

Soft option

A new computer game, *Air Base Invaders* - the pacifist alternative to *Space Invaders* - has failed to penetrate our high street stores. Wonder why? "I will take action if you suggest it is because it is a left-wing game," said its programmer, Chris Whittington of CP Software, yesterday. The game's heroine is Annie, a peace woman, whose only weapon against the deadly foes - Ronald Raygun, the Old Bill and Harry Hardnose, a gutter-press photographer - is a heart-shaped kiss. The enemy vaporizes on contact with the kiss. Only Mrs Thatcher, who scurries around the bunker corridors, is immune. Presumably she turns into a frog.

BARRY FANTONI



Guided tour round all the buildings saved by the Poet Laureate, Sir...

Nutcracker

Dame Ninette de Valois, the founder of Sadler's Wells, parted company with the theatre at the weekend, and ended up rolling on the pavement. Well, not the 86-year-old Dame Ninette herself, but the celebrated bronze bust of her outside the dress circle. It was uprooted from its plinth by two thugs who made off with it down Arlington Way. They unceremoniously dropped it when Mary Jones, the theatre manager, gave chase. Unable to lift the sculpture, Mrs Jones summoned help from members of the audience - for a programme of contemporary dance - who reverently carried it back.

PHS

Stronger than we think



Abba Eban, former Israeli foreign minister, continues our series on Nato's 35th anniversary with an assessment of the alliance's formidable power - and an apportionment of blame for the present divisions between the US and Europe

erode in the 1960s with Vietnam and a falling dollar. When the US accepted Soviet nuclear parity and ascendancy in conventional arms the myth of American primacy suffered further injury.

Later, Europeans winced at examples of American hesitations and failures - the authorization and subsequent cancellation of the B-1 bomber, the retreat from Salt II, the loud anti-Soviet rhetoric followed by a failure to restrain Soviet actions in Afghanistan and Poland; the endorsement of American wheat deals with the Soviets while punishing Europeans for cooperating with the Siberian pipeline; and, most recently, a policy in Central America which most Europeans persist in regarding as unduly nervous and obsessive.

Disagreements between Europe and the US on issues outside the Nato geographical area are not, strictly speaking, in conflict with the 1949 treaty. The European signatories never undertook to support American policies or operations in Vietnam, Cambodia, Central America, Iran or the Middle East, and the US is under no contractual obligation to identify itself with the policies of the European powers in their former colonies or to condone their tendency to strengthen economic links with the Soviet bloc.

There have been occasions, such as the 1962 Cuban missile crisis and the Falklands war, when Americans and Europeans received support from each other and there will be such occasions again. But this cooperation will have to arise from separate decisions in particular cases, and not from the spontaneous solidarities of an alliance.

More serious than divergence on matters outside Nato is the failure of the US and Europe to agree on European security. This, after all, is the main theme of the alliance, and it is here that discord is most marked. It is true that America and Europe both have anxieties about the Soviet Union, but their anxieties overlap without being identical. The American fear is "only" of nuclear attack. Europeans fear both a nuclear attack and an invasion by conventional military forces. Of these two fears the latter is the least far-fetched.

Soviet armies have sometimes moved into neighbouring countries, while there has never been a serious prospect of a Soviet nuclear assault. In these circumstances, it is objectively understandable for Europeans to look more carefully at their relations with Moscow and to avoid excessive rhetoric and attitudes, especially since Europeans are by no

means certain that an American nuclear umbrella would really protect them against a Soviet conventional invasion.

It must be admitted that Americans have done a great deal to nourish this scepticism. If a confirmed Atlantist such as Henry Kissinger can tell Europeans not to rely on American nuclear protection since that "is something that we cannot possibly mean or if we do mean we should not want to execute, because if we execute, we risk the destruction of civilization" - how can Europeans continue to dream of the US risking suicide for their protection?

Paradoxically, Europeans who are closer to the danger are less afraid of it than Americans who are more distant and less vulnerable. Europeans were more alarmed by a non-nuclear Soviet Union weakened by the devastation of the Second World War than they seem to be by the vastly more powerful Soviet Union of today. Americans talk of the USSR as of a formidably cunning and successful colossus, while Europeans see the Soviet Union as a troubled society unable to feed itself, dependent on western technologies, tormented by its task of controlling dissident movements in Eastern Europe and its invasion of Afghanistan. Europeans have de-demonized the Soviet Union while the Americans have not.



Today American grievances against Europe resound not only in the traditionally isolationist Midwest, but among internationally-minded Eastern establishments as well. Americans do not understand why the EEC, with a population, a steel production and a technological capacity greater than those of the Soviet Union, should not have created a conventional defence system capable of balancing Soviet power and reducing the weight of the West's nuclear strategy.

Europeans always understood that Britain and France could not resign themselves to a hostile power in control of the Low Countries; but Europeans seem appallingly insensitive to the concern of the US about hostile regimes in Central America. There is also a more deep-seated psychological resentment; the anti-Americanism in the discourse and rhetoric of many Europeans, especially in intellectual circles, goes beyond any reasonable limit.

If there is any value in an outside judgment I would say that the

American case is stronger than that of Europe. The European complaints against America are concerned mainly with issues of tactics, timing and rhetoric as well as the notion that America is excessively zealous in the resistance to Soviet encroachment, which is after all, the central aim of the alliance. Americans discern in Europe a disquieting decline of will and purpose.

In these conditions "a joint western foreign policy" is an exaggerated hope. There are no institutional provisions for such a western "concert" and the post-war age reveals few examples of successful multinational mediation. There are few issues in which American-European harmony extends beyond first, vague principles. The Arab-Israeli conflict is a case in point.

Europeans are more vulnerable to Arab oil and currency pressures than they are responsive to Israel's security. The US is the only country in which Arab geopolitical weight is counterbalanced by a strong pro-Israeli place in domestic opinion. And only the United States can compensate Israel or an Arab state for the risks that either takes in a peace settlement; this was revealed in the negotiation of the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.

Whenever a tension becomes dangerously close to escalation, the US turns not to Europe but to the Soviet Union for help in securing a cease-fire or a disengagement process. Every Arab-Israeli war between 1948 and 1973 ended with an American-Soviet consensus, not on the political issues at stake, but on the need for an end to hostilities.

The alliance could help freedom by a more assertive defence of its own vision. Democracy does not have a rhapsodic sense. It lacks a proselytizing instinct. Democracy has produced more wealth and welfare than Soviet communism, but it stands before Moscow in an apologetic mood.

It is not assertive enough in celebrating its own triumphs or criticizing Soviet weaknesses. Moreover, there is a lack of symmetry in the decision-making process. What we call the "West" is fragmented at two levels - the level of discord between different states, and the level of domestic diversity within each democratic nation. The Soviet Union, on the other hand, has a unitary source of decision.

What the alliance needs is a stronger consciousness of its own stature in history. The Nato powers, the European Community and Japan form the greatest aggregate of power and wealth in the history of mankind. Power and freedom have never come together more intimately than here. For the most part, the powerful have not been free, and the free have not been powerful. If the western alliance were more sharply aware of its unique reconciliation of freedom with power, it might escape from its frustrations into a new era of opportunity.

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Mr Eban is author of *The New Diplomacy*, published by Weidenfeld and Nicolson. The collected articles in this series will be published in *October in Challenge* to the Western Alliance, price £8.95, by Times Books, in cooperation with the Georgetown Centre for Strategic and International Studies, Washington.

Roger Scruton

The enemy in the classroom

The students at North London Polytechnic have discovered a member of the National Front in their midst. The discovery has been greeted with boundless enthusiasm by the local Socialist Workers' Society, the dominant faction in the Students' Union.

To come across a lone, defenceless member of the class enemy, a "self-confessed Nazi", whose views are abhorrent to all decent people - what better occasion for a show of righteous indignation? These bravos have therefore issued a call to arms against "the Nazi Harrington", and have (to use the fashionable euphemism) "picked" his lectures, in order to exclude him from the teaching to which he is entitled.

As a second class citizen, Mr Harrington cannot appeal to the National Council for Civil Liberties. He has therefore, in the teachers' manner of the petit bourgeois, taken his case to law, and sought an injunction. This cowardly assault on the right of students to organize against racism has led the Socialist Workers' Student Society to denounce the law and all its works, and to incite students to defy it. A mild reminder from the director, Dr MacDowell, that large-scale disruptive action may lead to the closure of the polytechnic, called forth the following report: "It is pure hypocrisy for MacDowell to talk of freedom of speech and freedom of agitation for Nazi Harrington and in the same instance threaten, by the closure of the polytechnic, the freedom of education of 7,000 students and their right to organize against Nazis" (sic).

Clearly the fight for an education does not always leave much time to acquire one. The sentence is typical of a flood of illiterate and inflammatory leaflets from the Socialist Workers' Student Society, inciting the students of North London Polytechnic to crime. The interesting thing is that these professed opponents of discrimination and brutality have used every available measure of intimidation in order to ruin the career of a fellow student, while the "Nazi agitator", instead of summoning his stormtroopers to the rescue, has merely petitioned the courts. One does not have to be a National Front sympathizer to wonder who, in this encounter, is the "fascist".

How is it that the Socialist Workers' Party has been able, on this and many previous occasions, to disrupt the educational activities at North London Polytechnic? The answer lies with two institutions: the National Union of Students, and the polytechnic's governors.

The NUS is a kind of government quango, through which taxpayers support "permanent revolution" on the campus. It is not representative of student opinion, but nevertheless controls student funds, and diverts

them in whatever direction its student officers see fit.

The Students' Union at North London Polytechnic, which disposes of £200,000 per annum, uses the officially funded magazine *Fuse* as a platform for agitation and propaganda; the current issue even carries a full-page announcement inciting students to intimidate Mr Harrington, and gives the times of the lectures he is due to attend so that he may be "picked" off the campus. This is wholly typical of the way in which the Students' Union is able to abuse the control which the Government has granted to it.

The behaviour of the Students' Union would matter less if the governors of the polytechnic had preferred academic principle to political expediency. However, they have shown no such regard in the present dispute, either to discipline the culprits or to protect Mr Harrington, or to prevent his having to have recourse to the courts.

This neglect of duty is by no means new. In March 1983 left-wing activists occupied part of the polytechnic, invited a representative of Swapo to address them, set up a "Palestine Solidarity Workshop", a "radical social work" seminar, a "rave up" with women from Greenham Common. Those responsible were never disciplined. In October, 1983, similar activists picketed a distinguished visitor whose views they found unacceptable. Again they were not disciplined.

The most disturbing recent case, however, concerns the award of degrees by the polytechnic. HM Inspectors visited the polytechnic in 1983 and found an unusually high level of sloppy and possibly biased teaching in this department, and criticized the practice of circulating examination topics in advance - a practice which clearly threatens the element of unseen assessment, traditionally regarded as integral to a degree.

The Council of the National Academic Awards subsequently advised the discontinue that practice must stop. At once a coachload of students descended on the polytechnic, and the head of the department, the chief officer, withdrew his advice. The students, returned to the polytechnic, in triumph, waving in their hands the chief officer's letter of recantation. In this, and their news-sheet, is a powerful example of what student activity can achieve.

Those who would deny education to some, and make degrees easier for others, by "direct action", have no place in an institution of higher education. Only by removing them can the governors show their concern for academic values, and for the mass of students and staff who adhere to them.

The author is editor of *Manchester Review*.

Phillip Whitehead

Police: exceeding a tolerable limit

As you drive on to the M1 at the East Midlands intersection you pass police at checkpoints ready to ask you business in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire. Throughout the coalfields they are omnipresent. They have come from all parts of the country and are sometimes filmed marching around their barracks. They have the grace to do it badly, with the awkward air of pressed men.

Drive on down the motorway and you will notice a squat pillbox on one of the bridges. It is recording the details of your car for some computer elsewhere. Facts are assembling. Unlike the marching policemen, there is no awkwardness about their smooth routine. Had you arrived in London a few weeks ago, you might well have driven past police marksmen, scurrying self-consciously towards the Libyan embassy.

None of these things should give rise to concern, it is argued, except to those with coercive powers or ambitions which threaten the ordinary citizen and the Queen's peace. We have to spend more in real terms on the police, and give them the additional powers in the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, purely to combat the lawless. It is nothing to do with a move towards a national police force, with the Home Office as a Ministry of the Interior.

These assurances sit ill with more and more people, who have had no brush with the law themselves, but who are now expressing worries about police behaviour. Since experience has to be shared to be properly understood, the impact of that behaviour on various minorities has not been absorbed by the community as a whole. But I cannot unseat a time when the general unease has been as high as it is now.

This unease is partly a consequence of frequent examples of the abuse of powers which the police already have. In part it is because of powers which seem to be taking for themselves. Not a single day goes by without some example of excessive violence. Some are brought before the courts. Last week PC Renton was jailed for an attack on a man he had blinded in a ferocious attack at Islington police station. He had had six pints of beer and was not on duty when the altercation with his victim began. A split eye does not heal as easily as bruises. Juries have been less willing to convict in other cases, where the physical damage was not permanent. Many cases do not come to the courts. Witnesses are hard to find.

I know of one case of assault where the assailants were actually able to collect libel damages, from the one paper that reported the case, because no witness dared testify. Casual violence becomes addictive if not checked. A couple of weeks back I saw a large number of

policemen snatch a youth in Covent Garden. I have no knowledge of his offence; it may have been grave. But he was not offering violence at the time, nor was he resisting arrest. He was run across the road, very fast, and his head rammed into the side of the police van.

When more powers are taken, the possibility of abuse increases. In spite of the evidence of bullets fired into the new body of Stephen Waldorf, and his pistol-shooting, a jury found no cause for alarm in the "mistaken identity" shooting in Knightsbridge. The power to carry arms, and the licence to use them, are obviously open to abuse. So are the powers of preventive arrest which have been widely taken in the policing of the miners' strike. There is something profoundly distasteful about people who are behaving lawfully being told that they might commit a breach of the peace. The evidence available is no more than would suffice to stop any one of us crossing our country's boundary, should the police take a dim view of our motives.

Then there is the harassment of minorities, which claims our attention only when someone in the public eye unhappily joins them in misfortune. I do not know on whose orders plain-clothes policemen go cruising through the London gay sexual community, but the policy seems to violate all the restrictions properly placed on incitement to commit offences.

When the middle-class liberal glimpses the way in which other sections of the community have long viewed the police, he is usually denounced as paranoid, or hypocritical. Either he is accused of entertaining fantasies of a police state, or of resenting the way in which the police, by enforcing the law, frustrate cherished causes.

Not so. The police have a difficult job. They do have to protect men who want to go to work in Nottinghamshire against the foolish and counter-productive coercion to which some have been subjected. In the last resort they have to protect the right of an individual, however we may detest his views, to study at North London Polytechnic, against the crass stupidity of demonstrators. But are the police upholding the law with minimum force? Or are they all too often extending what the law allows them, with a coercive power which no free society should tolerate?

The more we lavish on the police in money and legal powers, the more we have in question: how those powers are used or abused. The journey to the police state may not begin with a piston-of-police marching awkwardly out of step, or in the issue of riot gear and rifles. But we are too close for comfort. The author was Labour MP for Derby North, 1970-83.

Betjeman at school: an appreciation by Arthur Byron



Marlborough: 'Doom! Shivering doom! Inexorable bells to early school, in chapel, school again: Compulsory constipation, hurried meals. ...' Free at last, Betjeman at 19, before going up to Oxford

A lesson from the shy loner

There was a strong philistine element in most public schools at that time, and Marlborough suffered from it like the others. It was the prelude to the bitter conflict between Hearties and Aesthetes, particularly at Oxford, in the mid-1920s. To counteract this hearty trend a group of about seven or eight intellectuals from different houses, including John, got together and produced a magazine called *The Heretic*.

Their covers were striking, the March 1924 copy having a drawing portraying one of the stupider games players of the year, a red-headed jolt, and underneath was written "Upon Philistia will I triumph". The June copy had rather a good drawing of a summer scene. One of the contributors was the traitor Blunt, who wrote a precocious article on Modern Art which could have been written yesterday.

John had a short poem in each. The first one, though unsigned, is unmistakably Betjeman. It was written when he was 17, and is his first poem to be in print. The title is *Muffin*.

Here comes the Muffin Man down the street, With trays, and baize, and bell, Calling and bowling, and shuffling his feet, And carrying muffins as well.

Muffin Man! Muffin Man! little you'll stay The smart my heart must know, It seeping, and fleeing, unwilling, From the muffins I long for so.

Muffin Man! Muffin Man! Time was when (How glad, yet sad, to say) Greedy, and needy, I gobbled up ten, And practically passed away.

Muffin Man! Muffin Man! Saying to me! (I know your low design) Stop fretting, forgetting the pains to be.

All right! I'll purchase nine. The poem in the June number is about two typists in the country entitled *The Old Cottage (Quite near a town)*. It is in sonnet form and signed JB.

The happy haunts of typists common, pert, We're in the country now! they say, Tweed clothes, and let the wind disturb their hair, And carry ash sticks. Don't be silly, Gent!

Afraid of cows? "Oh Elsie, mind my skirt, It will get muddy". Oh just look down there A factory... "O dearest, how they dare, To ruin all the country with their dirt!" And Gert and Elsie's cottage - "Just too sweet With rustic furniture, no bath, no drains, But still it is so courted, A friend Can sleep upon the sofa. And they eat Off pottery (hand-painted). Oh! the And saving for their gone of let's pretend!

Writing letters was to most of us an obligatory penance but John seemed to revel in it and he impressed us all by having large, expensive deep blue writing paper and oversized envelopes which nearly matched the blue 2½d stamps. In 1924 postage was reduced to 2p, but John went on using the blue stamps instead of the orange 2p which aesthetically clashed with his envelopes.

One's first year at Marlborough was usually spent in a junior house. The solitary small boy from the junior house became the quaint shy boy in his senior house, and by his very individuality John did much to make us realize that conformity was not everything. Term after term, this became more and more appreciated. The higher in the school he got the more popular he became, and the more he influenced all those around him with his humour, his droll wit and his idiosyncracies. The odd little boy had already become a likeable eccentric.

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The author, a *Lloyds Underwriter*, was at Marlborough with Sir John Betjeman from 1920-24. His book, *London Statues*, is published by Constable.



East Anglia
Mr Barry MacDonald, reader in educational evaluation in the Centre for Applied Research in Education, has been appointed to a chair in education from October 1. He will also succeed the late Professor Lawrence Stenhouse as director of the centre.

Solicitors' Company

The Court of the City of London Solicitors' Company has elected the following officers for the forthcoming year: Master: Mr D. F. Gray; Senior Warden: Mr E. P. T. Roney; Junior Warden: Sir Max Williams.

Gold Flush, yellow-edges
leaves, and the glaucous 'Bres-
ingham Blue'. Noicants Nur-
series, of Woodbridge, Suffolk
have a laburnum arch as

MR ARNOLD

Commonwealth Relations Office and from 1953 to 1957 Principal Staff Officer to the Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations, touring extensively in Commonwealth countries during that period.

After a period as British Deputy Commissioner in Calcutta he returned to the CRO as Director of Information Services and Cultural Relations from 1962 to 1964 before taking up his final appointment in Cyprus in that year.

ay, 22 May at 2 p.m., South Kensington: The number of fine and rare fans of all types and an ivory brise fan commemorating the wedding of the Honourable George Cranfield Berkeley Lennox in 1784 and a fan commemorating the edition of 1851. There are also some good Oriental fans. *next sale close 3 August.*

For further information on these and other May sales, call 01-839 9060 for King Street or 01-581 2231 for South Kensington.

The work was done under a research contract by Novachem laboratory, a small new company specializing in organic chemicals at Haverhill in Suffolk. The team were asked to provide a substance called ethylthiodycyprene hydrochloride, which used to be derived from quinlone and was employed as a treatment for pneumonia. The treatment was dropped with the advent of modern antibiotics.

He next became Political Adviser to the Indian Tea Association and a member of the Assam Legislature. During the Second World War, in 1942, he was in charge of the evacuation from Burma of civilians fleeing from the advancing Japanese, through

CHRISTIE'S

A WEEK IN VIEW

Pressing ahead



In touch-at a touch

For Londoners on the move, nothing can touch our amazing new two-way electronic message system.

It's called *Voicebank* and enables you to receive messages and to alert callers to your movements simply by picking up a phone almost anywhere in the world.

At your end, *Voicebank* is invisible. There's no box. No tapes. No switches. And nothing to go wrong. We can even arrange for your Radiopager to bleep the moment a message arrives.



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A fire brigade's central control unit can now fully mobilise outlying stations at the touch of a single button.

With our microprocessor-controlled Solent alarm system everything can happen automatically - from radio-paging individual crewmembers to stopping the traffic outside the station.

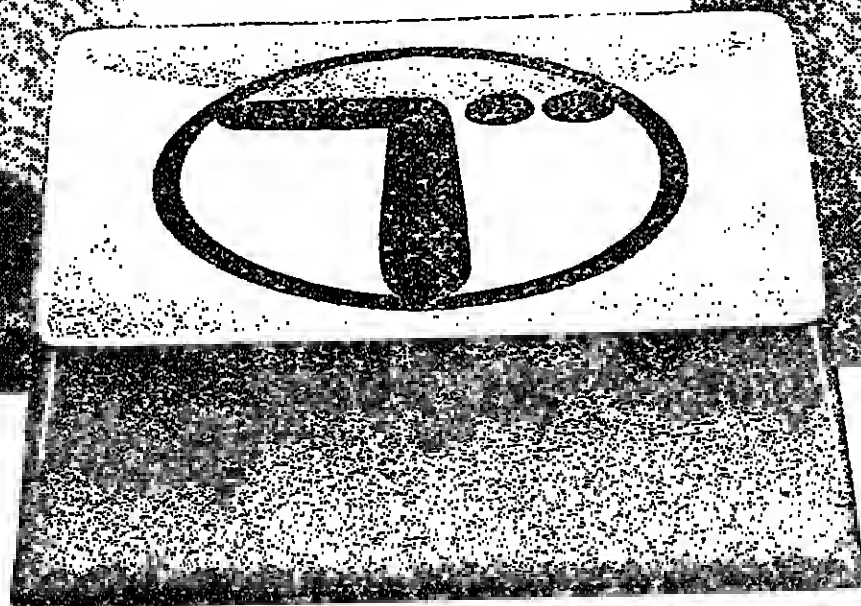
So far sixteen British brigades have ordered Solent and its life-saving potential is already attracting export interest.

A to Z in .39 sec.

A single optic fibre cable (Lightline) could transmit every word of the Encyclopaedia Britannica in .39 seconds!

Lightlines are now specified for all new trunk cables.

A graphic illustration of the communicative power British Telecom foresight and investment in technology is providing.



Improving the telephone service

Every working day, on average, British Telecom:

connects 14,000 new telephones,
lays 10 km of optic fibre cable,
brings into service one new electronic exchange.

The big business machine

Business doesn't come much bigger than Shell. And the machine Shell relies on for business communications is BT Telex.

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Telex today is compact, streamlined and silent. It can be programmed, and it will talk to computers, word processors, data terminals alike.

Small wonder that BT's Telex service handles over 800,000 messages for business customers each and every day.

A better way to run an airline

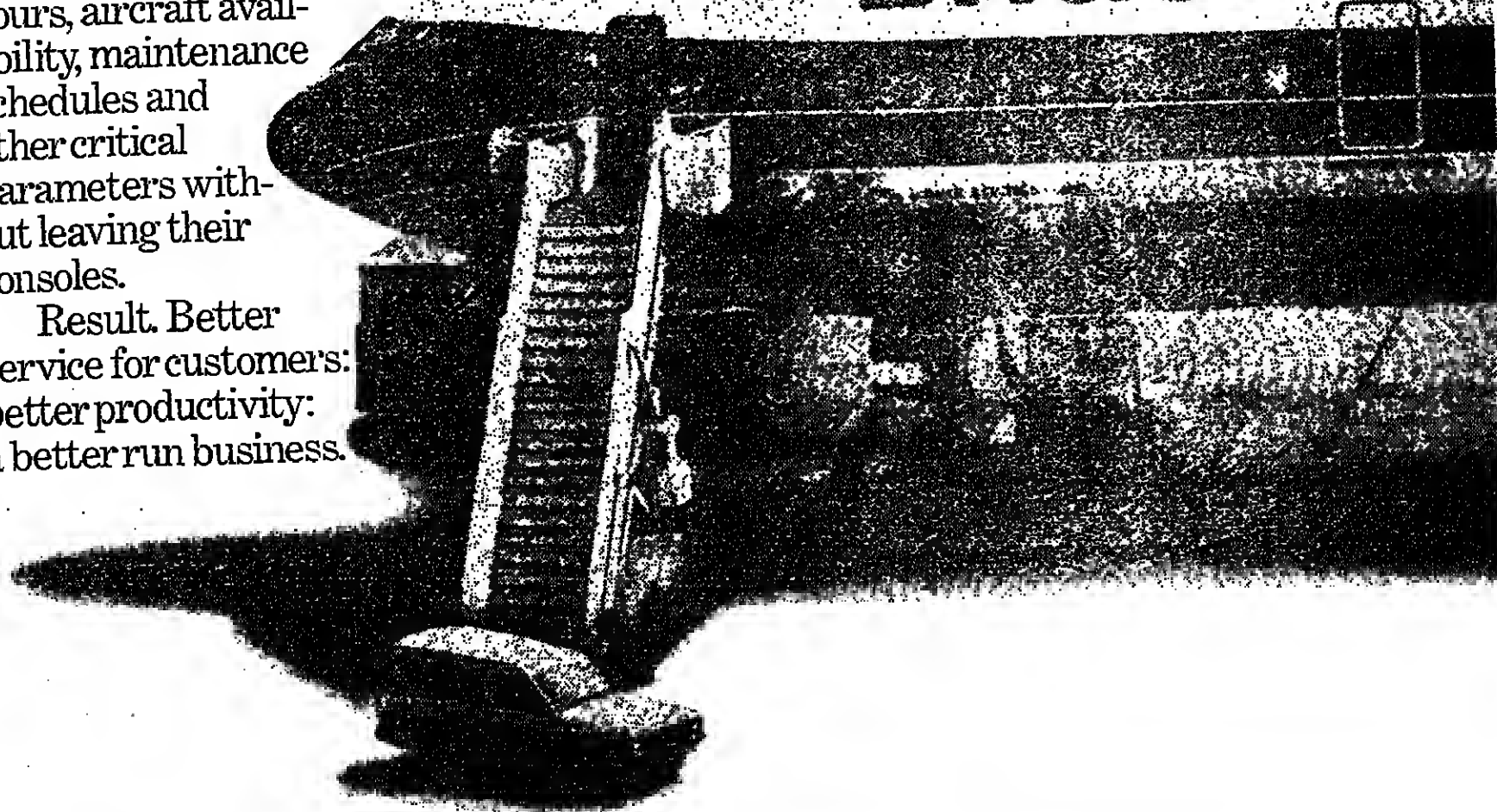
A British Telecom *Touchdown* system helps British Caledonian's operational control centre at Gatwick to use human and material resources to the best advantage.

Controllers can check arrival times, fuel, catering and servicing requirements directly with pilots in the air. They can also monitor crew hours, aircraft availability, maintenance schedules and other critical parameters without leaving their consoles.

Result. Better service for customers: better productivity: a better run business.

This adaptation of the successful City Business System is an excellent example of the commercial enterprise and knowhow that are expanding the market for British Telecom products and services.

British C



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TELECOM

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LORNA BOURKE
THE TIMES
BUSINESS NEWS
EVERY SATURDAY

SHIPPING									
288	17	444	Brit Ports	261	-1	12.1	4.7		
11		54	Brit & Com	194		10.7	2.1		
104		4	Caladonia Inv	822	-1	23.6	27.3		
135	4		Fisher	111	-2	4.9	3.6		
1	35		Jacobus J. I.	51		3.7	3.2		
166			Ocean Trans	126		9.5	15.8		

[illegible]

News group rejects offer from ENAP

ENAP, the National Endowment for the Arts, has rejected an offer from the News Group to purchase the organization's assets. The offer, which was made last week, was for \$10 million. The News Group, which is a subsidiary of the News Corporation, had been in talks with ENAP for some time. The offer was rejected because ENAP felt that the News Group did not have the necessary experience to run the organization. ENAP is a non-profit organization that provides grants to artists and arts organizations. It was founded in 1965 and has since then become one of the largest funders of the arts in the United States. The News Group is a for-profit company that is involved in a variety of media-related businesses. It is currently owned by Rupert Murdoch, who is also the owner of News Corporation. The News Group has been in the process of restructuring itself for some time. It has recently sold off several of its assets, including its interest in the Newsweek magazine. The News Group is now focused on its core media businesses, including its television and newspaper operations. The rejection of the offer from the News Group is a significant development for ENAP. It shows that the organization is committed to its non-profit status and its mission to support the arts. It also shows that the News Group is not interested in acquiring ENAP, which is a relief for many people who are concerned about the future of the organization. ENAP will continue to operate as a non-profit organization and will continue to provide grants to artists and arts organizations. The organization is currently looking for a new source of funding to replace the grants that it has lost from the News Group. It is also looking for a new source of revenue to help it cover its operating costs. ENAP is currently in the process of applying for a new source of funding from the federal government. It is also looking for private donors who are interested in supporting the arts. ENAP is confident that it will be able to find a new source of funding and will continue to operate for many years to come.

brief

GOVERNMENT The House of Representatives today passed a bill to create a new department of the interior. The bill, which was introduced by Rep. James H. Rogg (R-Calif.), would create a new department of the interior, which would be responsible for managing the nation's natural resources. The bill would also create a new position of secretary of the interior, who would be responsible for overseeing the department. The bill was passed by a vote of 241 to 187. The Senate is expected to take up the bill in the near future.

WHITEN A group of white supremacists in the South has announced that they will be holding a rally in the town of Selma, Ala., in the near future. The group, which is known as the Citizens' Council, has been active in the South for many years. It has been responsible for a number of violent acts against African Americans. The rally in Selma is expected to be a large one, with hundreds of people attending. The rally is being held in response to the recent decision by the Supreme Court in the case of Brown v. Board of Education. The Court's decision, which was issued in 1954, declared that segregation in public schools was unconstitutional. The Citizens' Council has been opposed to the decision ever since. It has been working to overturn the decision and to restore segregation in the South. The rally in Selma is expected to be a test of the Court's decision. It will show whether or not the Court's decision is still valid. The rally is also expected to be a test of the federal government's commitment to civil rights. It will show whether or not the federal government is willing to enforce the Court's decision. The rally is being held in Selma because it is a town that has a long history of segregation. It was the site of the famous Selma to Montgomery march in 1965. The march was led by Martin Luther King Jr. and it was a key event in the civil rights movement. The rally in Selma is expected to be a large one, with hundreds of people attending. It is expected to be a test of the Court's decision and of the federal government's commitment to civil rights.

FLORIDA The state of Florida has announced that it will be holding a referendum on the issue of school finance. The referendum, which is scheduled for the November election next year, will ask voters whether or not they want to approve a new state constitution. The new constitution would provide for a more equitable distribution of funds to public schools. It would also provide for a new system of state taxes. The referendum is being held in response to a lawsuit filed by a group of parents in the state of Florida. The parents, who are known as the Florida Education Union, have argued that the current system of state funding for public schools is unconstitutional. They claim that it is unfair to some schools and that it does not provide enough money for schools. The referendum is expected to be a close one. It will show whether or not voters in Florida support the new constitution. It will also show whether or not voters support the new system of state taxes.

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Copies of the 1983 Report and Accounts are available from the Secretary, Lambert Horwath Group p.l.c., Rossendale Works, Rossendale, Lancashire BB4 9LJ.

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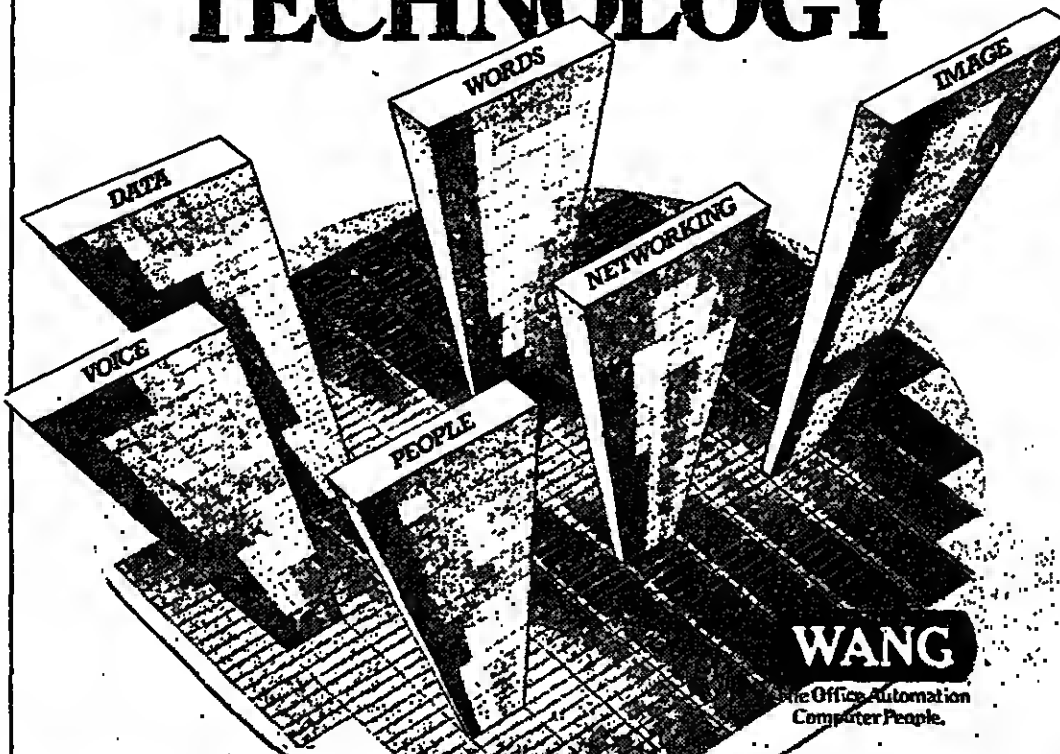
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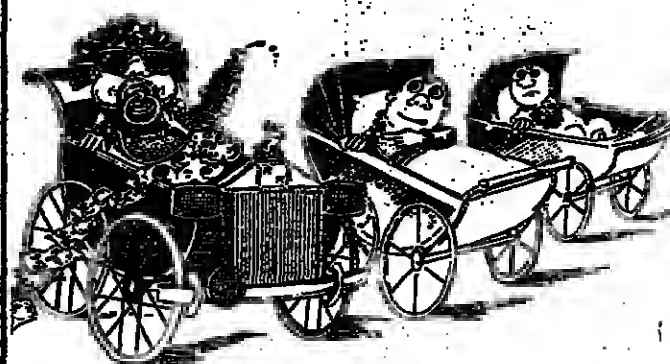
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BLUE-CHIP TECHNOLOGY



Cold war among the software



By Simon Craven

The cost of software for home computers now seems unlikely to take a permanent plunge, despite rumours of an impending price war similar to the one which drove so many micro manufacturers out of business last year.

Three companies, Pulsonic, Mastertronic and Atlantis have all announced very low-priced programs for the top-selling Sinclair Spectrum and Commodore 64 micros, retailing at between £1.99 to £2.99. Until now, software on cassettes has typically retailed at £6 to £10.

The manufacturing and distribution problems experienced by many micro manufacturers over the Christmas period have led to a shortfall in the number of active home micro users the leading software houses had projected when planning this year's production. Stock-clearing has meant increasingly strong downward pressure on prices to recoup moths.

Mastertronic's intention is to act as a middle man between software houses and the trade. The games themselves are mostly drawn from the existing stock of some of the lesser-known suppliers.

But the better-established names in home software are taking a more cynical attitude. Imagine Software recently dropped its prices from £5.50 to £3.95 only to put them back again a few days later.

The company claimed that the change of heart was induced by the fear that smaller software companies would be driven out of business — an unusual claim to make in an industry noted for its dog-eat-dog attitudes. Imagine's latest move has been to announce two new games which will cost around £15 — far more than anything yet seen from this Liverpoolian concern.

The disorganization of the software industry in this country contrasts firmly with the US market, which has now matured considerably through the stabilizing influence of established distribution networks.

This trend is now becoming apparent in the UK, and as it develops, it is likely that the British home computer market will attract attention from American producers who have so far been unwilling to enter the maelstrom.

Jay Balakrishnan, vice president of Hewlett-Packard, one of the biggest US home software companies, thinks this will eventually drive prices up rather than down. "At the moment, many companies are cutting their own throats with kamikaze pricing," he said. "The relatively small number of home computers in the UK makes it impossible to recoup software development costs without a reasonable margin on each unit sold."

The investment in time required to produce a best-selling game varies from three to twelve man-months. Reduced prices would inevitably mean lower royalties.

One possible way out of the trap could be new programming tools which reduce the amount of work required. So far several arcade game designer utilities have emerged, but none has yet proved capable of producing games up to the standards of the leading programmers.

If a price war does develop, the long-term winners will be the big software companies with enough reserves to weather the storm. Many smaller companies have excellent products, but if the going gets rough, the star programmers may find the security offered by larger concerns irresistible.

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The package behind Sir Clive's new venture

By Robin Bradbeer

Psi-on, formed in October 1980, specialises in the development and distribution of high-quality software products, and has recently announced its intention to become a leading international force in micro-computers, extending its involvement beyond software with products and services. Its latest offering, the "bundled" software available with the recently launched Sinclair QL microcomputer, are the beginning of a concerted effort to take on the big American software companies, like Digital Research and Microsoft.

Psi-on was founded by Dr David Potter, aged 40, previously an academic specializing in Computational Physics at Imperial College and the University of California.

Psi-on achieved a turnover approaching £10m in the financial year ending November 1983. Profits were £2m — most of it earned from international software sales. The company now employs 70 staff.

Much of this achievement is due to an early decision to develop games products for the Sinclair ZX81, and later Spectrum, home computers, which were manufactured in high volume for worldwide distribution. While the "intellectual rights" to the software remain with Psi-on — fundamental company policy — all product is sold direct to Sinclair for worldwide marketing and sales.

In the case of the new QL machine, Psi-on conceived and developed the business applications software — for word processing, information management, graphics and financial planning — which is licensed to Sinclair under a royalty agreement for sales with their computers.

Unlike its main international competitors — and in direct contrast to the traditional mainframe and minicomputer software market — Psi-on does not do any contract business; all resources are directed at its own products, entirely created within the company. Psi-on also recognized the inexperience of new microcomputer users, and has a team of graphics designers, for example, who are determined to provide software which would be immediately useful to skilled and non-skilled alike.

Psi-on has 25 young, highly-skilled and motivated software engineers. All have first-class honours degrees from top universities — seven with PhDs. This impressive line-up is



David Potter

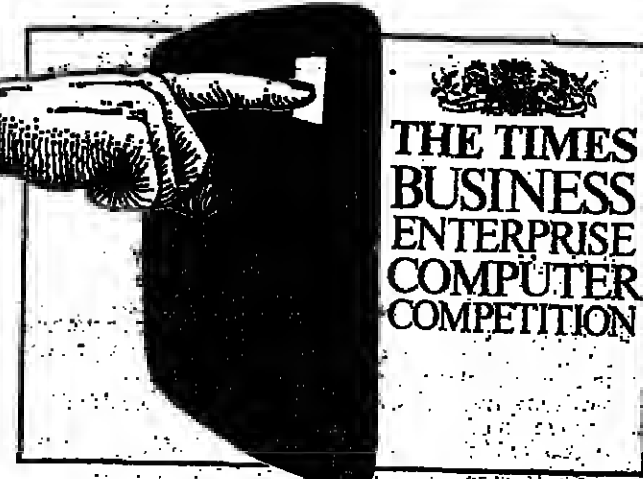
backed up by one of the most sophisticated development facilities in the world. All engineers are qualified to at least first degree level and have substantial academic experience with the most powerful and sophisticated computer systems.

Unlike the industry practice of working directly with micros, Psi-on's software engineers use an in-house, £500,000 development system based around DEC "VAX" minicomputers. All programming is carried out using the high level language "C", which is designed as a portable language, and can therefore be used on a variety of systems. This not only gives greater programming sophistication, but also enables software products to be designed so that they can be swiftly and cheaply adapted for use on a variety of makes of microcomputer — and to be created before hardware is available.

To support the expected large market created by sales of the QL, Psi-on is setting up a 30-strong customer support service. This will provide telephone and other back-up for the novice user. Also, for around £35 per year, users will get updates on new releases of software for their machines.

Psi-on's QL applications programs provide a very comprehensive word-processing, planning information handling and graphics capability, and are integrated in a style, structure, design and in the sharing of information.

Each program is more powerful and far more functional than existing equivalent products of desktop computers up to £5,000 (such as the IBM PC). The first thing that strikes the user about the software is its ease of use, and "user-friendliness". The software has been designed to be immediately useful to a mass market with no training or pre-knowledge. The software understands the user, rather than the user having to understand the software. This approach promises to make the "bundled" QL software an industry standard very quickly. They also expect to have it running in other machines, like the Sirius, by the end of the year.

war among
software

THE TIMES
BUSINESS
ENTERPRISE
COMPUTER
COMPETITION

Three touch-screen micros to be won

Today Computer Horizons announces a new competition - The Times Business Enterprise Computer Competition. We are seeking the best and most original business use for one of the most modern micros. Three of the new touch-screen Hewlett Packard 150s, with varying peripherals and software, are the prizes. The winners will be those competitors whose ideas are judged to offer the most interesting, original and potentially advantageous applications of this type of micro in a business environment.

Following our two successful competitions - the first for schools, the second for those with original ideas for employing micros for socially useful purposes - The Times now intends to stimulate appreciation of the possible benefits of the innovative use of micros in today's business world. You do not have to be a businessman to enter - only to employ business flair. Closing date is June 15.

Many microcomputers available today have advanced technical features that are rarely used to the full. Below are listed five features available on the HP 150, all of which could have some impact on this micro's use.

We want entrants, in not more than 250 words, to outline an original use for one or more of these five attributes in a specific business operation, which must be explained in your entry.

TOUCH SCREEN FACILITY which allows the user to touch a particular point on the screen and the system reacts as if a key has been pressed.

COMMUNICATIONS - the ability of micros to connect to larger computers and other distant peripherals both within organisations and to public services.

BUILT-IN BUSINESS GRAPHICS using statistics in a wide variety of different ways including bar charts, graphs and pie charts.

ERGONOMIC DESIGN involving such factors as compactness, keyboard design and high resolution displays.

ADDING PERIPHERALS - the addition of such extras as printers, larger capacity disc drives and plotters.

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Please send your entry (it need not be typed) consisting of not more than 250 words to:

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All entries must be accompanied by 10 differently dated mastheads from the front of The Times, and also by this form completed in full and signed. Entries must be despatched to arrive at the competition address above by Friday June 15th 1984.

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Position & Occupation _____
Address _____
Telephone _____
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I hereby declare that the material entered is to the best of my knowledge original and has not been published, displayed or demonstrated elsewhere. As such it will not violate any copyright existing before, on or after the competition date.

Signature of Entrant _____ Date _____

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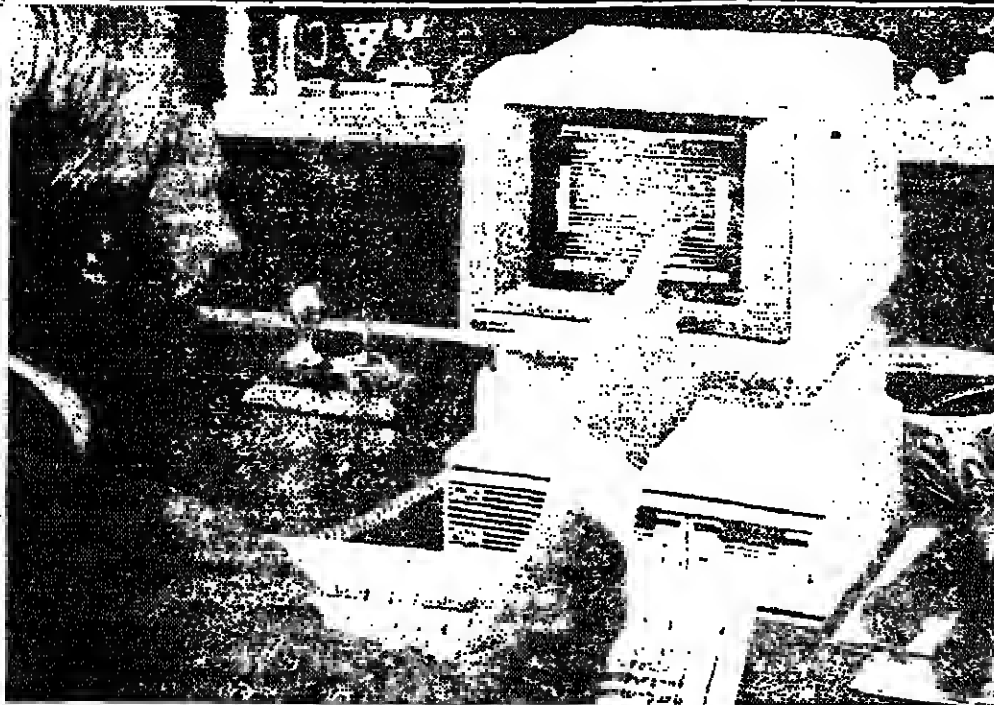
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- 2nd Prize: An HP 150 with a single disc drive and an H.P. software package.
- 3rd Prize: An HP 150 with a single disc drive.

The rules

1. All entries must be accompanied by the official entry form, completed in full. No photocopies will be accepted.
2. Entrants may submit more than one entry, provided each is accompanied by the official entry form and by 10 differently dated mastheads from the front of The Times. No entrant may, however, qualify for more than one prize.
3. Those entrants wishing to have their entries returned to them after completion of judging must state this clearly at the time of entry and enclose a suitable stamped, addressed envelope for return.
4. Proof of posting is not acceptable as proof of entry and The Times accepts no responsibility for any materials lost or damaged in transit.
5. The winners will be those entries deemed by the panel of judges to have submitted the best and most original use of a microcomputer for a stated business application. The decision of the judges appointed by the Editor is final on all matters connected with the competition and no correspondence connected with the conduct or outcome of the competition will be entered into.
6. Copyright in the material submitted will, at all times, remain vested with the entrant. Notwithstanding this, The Times and all others authorised by it shall be at liberty to reproduce, display, demonstrate and otherwise utilise the material in such manner as it deems fit in connection with the competition.
7. By entering the competition the entrant agrees to indemnify The Times and its associates in this competition against any loss resulting from any claim made against Times Newspapers Ltd in respect of any infringement of copyright, or breach of rights of any third party arising out of the entrant's participation.
8. The competition is open to all those resident in the UK. Employees, and their families, of Times Newspapers Ltd, its associated companies or anyone connected with the operation of this competition are NOT eligible to enter.
9. All entrants will be deemed to have agreed to abide by the rules of which all instructions given herein, or as published in The Times, form part.

Microsoft to fill the IBM gap

News that IBM's network for the PC is likely to be delayed for up to two years offers a breach that other suppliers are only too anxious to fill. One of the hottest contenders must be Microsoft, the United States software house that supplies the PC's native operating system, PC-DOS, and the company is already building support to establish its own network, MS-Net, as an industry standard.

Several major hardware manufacturers (one of whom is believed to be IBM) are currently evaluating pre-release copies of MS-Net and Microsoft plans to start shipping the final version in the autumn, after adapting the product to meet the consensus of requirements.

"In the networking field there are 20 or more 'standards' in existence, none of which predominates - we are trying to get the big players together to provide something that benefits hardware manufacturers, software houses and end-users alike," explained David Fraser, general manager of Microsoft's United Kingdom subsidiary.

Microsoft has already made strides with other standards, notably the MSX specification for hardware design adopted by many large Japanese companies, and the MS-DOS operating system, from which PC-DOS was derived. According to Mr Fraser, Microsoft has sold more than 2½ million copies of the system altogether, and also plans to establish the new multi-tasking version, which runs several programs simultaneously, and controls them with screen windows and a mouse, as a 16-bit standard.

By Maggie McLeenag

Graphics and mouse cursor control are already available in the MS-Windows add-on to MS-DOS, which provides a superficial level of multi-tasking in its own right. Information can be "piped" between applications if users set up the links between windows, but programs themselves cannot exchange messages independently. They will be able to do this running under Multi-Tasking DOS and Microsoft has produced an enhanced version of MS-Windows with virtual memory management, so that related information shown in the windows can be changed automatically.

Multi-Tasking DOS was released to selected customers this week, but MS-Net has been out since April and one major European hardware manufacturer has already placed an order, with five other companies said to be "in negotiations". MS-Net has triggered a similar reaction in the US, although Mr Fraser is bound by a non-disclosure agreement from discussing IBM's interest in either product. Admitting, however, that IBM does receive advance copies of all Microsoft Developments, Mr Fraser said that "IBM has taken a lot of copies of PC-DOS, and obviously it is important to have upwards compatibility."

The close relationship with IBM has proved extremely profitable for Microsoft so far: the US parent company achieved revenues of \$3 million last year and is on course to reach 100 million dollars for 1983/84. In the UK, Microsoft's two-year-old sub-

sidary is on target for a five-fold increase in turnover to £5 million this year, boosted by contracts in such unlikely areas as Ireland.

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A friendly newcomer in the class

By Roger Woolnough

The betterment of mankind, Dean Swift believed, lay in making two blades of grass grow where one grew before. Cy Endfield has gone further than that. He has invented a way of turning one computer into five, at about 10 per cent of the cost of a single computer installation.

If it sounds like magic, the allusion is appropriate. As well as being a film director and self-appointed inventor, Endfield is a conjuror. But what he has pulled out of the hat this time is not a trick, but a simple and potentially powerful way of spreading computer use.

Already Endfield's invention, which he calls the Quinke, has aroused the enthusiasm of teachers in Newcastle upon Tyne, where children as young as six years old have used it to get on friendly terms with the BBC microcomputer. But Endfield hopes that this is just the start.

Until a few years ago, Cy Endfield was best known as director of the film "Zulu", but since turning to "the game called invention" he has found a different sort of stardom. His ingenious Microwriter is a small electronic box which allows people to write one-handed by touching only five keys, using a series of "chords" to select the different letters.

Although it is surprisingly easy to get the hang of, the Microwriter has a long way to go if it is to oust the 100-year-old "qwerty" keyboard. "We find our chief market is the self-motivated worker who has a lot of writing to do, and wants to get the work out in the easiest way," Endfield says.

Since national marketing of the Microwriter began in June 1982, some 3000 or 6000 have been sold. So far it has had a specialist appeal, but Endfield has high hopes of his latest invention.

What he has done with the Quinke is to take the Microwriter, remove most of the electronics, and turn it into a low-cost computer terminal. Then, with some ingenious interlacing, the display screen of a BBC micro is divided into four horizontally, and the computer's memory is also divided into four.

By hooking up four Quinke terminals, four people can use the computer independently and at the same time.

Just as remarkable is the

response from children who have been using Quinke setups in Newcastle. Children of six, most of whom would be baffled by a "qwerty" keyboard, are writing stories about space-men and poor little birds who have no mothers. The spelling may be erratic, but the thoughts are going down on paper.

"The essence of writing is to free the thinking procedure," Endfield believes. "Trials carried out in Newcastle showed that all the children learned to use the Microwriter. They became touch typists within an hour."

"We can go down to six-year-old kids. All they know is the alphabet. We get them writing, and within three weeks they gain fluency."

"We live in a new world where the computer will become part of people's everyday activity," he says. "How are they going to communicate with the machine? There's a theory they will talk to it, but that demands computers of a size that we don't have today. The only way they can do it is by keyboarding."

The idea of company executives taking to the Quinke like (literally) six-year-olds is an intriguing one. But Cy Endfield is a visionary with a strong dash of realism. There is a tremendous amount of inertia, he says, that stops new ideas getting across, though if it became chic to do it "that might get a lot of herd response".

He is equally realistic about the prospects in education, though he has been encouraged by the reactions of teachers, many of whom were initially hostile to computers. And the children love it.

"We make a game of learning the keyboard," he says. "It's like a Space Invaders game, which is not just one player solving a problem, it's four people in a trap, and they have to work themselves out of it. Software can be co-operative of competitive, and all the players can take part at one time."

But after allowing his imagination to roam free, Endfield returns to the down-to-earth fact that thousands of schools have invested in computers, and have probably now run out of the money need to buy more.

"This is simply a way of taking the investment, which is already considerable, and making it five times more valuable."



Cy Endfield among the computer children

A case of keeping the options open

By Rex Malik

Whole forests have been destroyed to provide the paper for hundreds of technology writers to consider the question: What is the standard operating 16-bit operating system to be.

The argument has raged in the United Kingdom, United States and Japan. Everywhere it is intermingled and complicated by commercial hype, as each entrant tries to convince you that they are likely to be the winners.

At 8 bit, CP/M is all but standard, at least in Japan. At 16 bit, the current leader is MS-DOS, though the trend is to replace that with CP/M-86.

Some companies, unable to decide the winner, equip with both.

Now matters get confused: Enter UNIX, for everybody is convinced that if the market is going to continue to grow, then all these machines will eventually have to start to be able to intercommunicate.

What Japan is really good at is the production of VLSI, and where does the logic of that take you? A recent Japan Information Processing Development Centre report (March 1984) carried this interesting paragraph, in a discussion of what the standard operating

system is to be: "Another plausible course which some Japanese manufacturers seem to be considering is to equip individual personal computers with a number of different operating systems, any one of which can be selected by the user at the flick of a switch."

Earlier this year, the place was full of technology writers hopping up and down because of their expectation that Sinclair would opt for a standard operating system on the QL, and when announced it became apparent that he had not and that what had been produced was a curious hybrid.

No question mark over funding for ITECs

From David Young, chairman of the Manpower Services Commission

Paul Walton's article "Finding a way to beat ITEC cash shortage" (15 May) was wrong to cast doubts over the future of Information Technology Centres.

ITECs give unemployed young people, mainly 16-year-old school leavers, practical work experience and training in new technologies, and are moving increasingly to offer such training to others in the community as well.

The bulk of ITEC income derives from the Manpower Services Commission which makes an annual grant for running costs as well as an initial capital grant. The annual grant will continue and there is no question mark over it.

ITECs also receive a "pump-priming" grant from the Department of Trade and Industry covering the first three years of their life.

We are now looking at whether ITECs entering their fourth year might receive additional funding.

LETTERS

From Professor L J Herbst, Department of Electrical, Instrumentation and Control Engineering, Teesside Polytechnic, Cleveland:

The demonstration by US military chiefs of missile guidance using an Apple II microcomputer, reported in *The Times* and elsewhere, highlights the advances which have resulted in home and personal microcomputers with computing power adequate for sophisticated military applications.

The prevention of high technology leakage to the Soviet block is difficult at best of times, once such technology is embodied in commercial products.

Protection becomes well-nigh impossible in the case of home and personal microcomputers. These, like video recorders and TV receivers, fall into the category of consumer electronics for the mass market, and are inevitably obtainable in quantity on request anywhere in the world.

Soviets launch their five-year computing plan

By Paul Walton

The Soviet Union's desire to catch up, to work alongside and then to trade in the predominantly Western computer industry will be announced this autumn at a technology fair in Moscow. It involves the Soviet Union and seven of its partners in the Council for Mutual Economic Assistance in a unique collaboration at the leading edge of electronics and computing research.

Their plan is to update and increase those few computers now made or employed in the socialist countries from the unique third generation directly to the supposedly intelligent fifth generation. It will run parallel to the British Alvey or Japanese SG programmes, with almost identical research topics. But, for the equivalent budget of \$100m this decade, it has only a fraction of their backing.

The Russians call it the third computing (five year) plan from the end of 1984 to the start of 1990. It is managed by a Commission for Computer Engineering (CCE) based at the Moscow Academy of Sciences, and has the explicit support of the socialist world's Council for Mutual Economic Assistance.

In particular, this computing plan is spurred on by recent American pressure to cease all high technology exports to these Eastern block countries. But, like any five-year plan, it is founded on the principle of improving the efficiency of industry and administration, as well as producing an export surplus with which to earn Western currency.

Soviet research comes under the headings of five goals, recently disclosed for the first time.

● The design of sophisticated microprocessors (Very Large Scale Integration, or VLSI) capable of storing and processing very much more information. Also, the ability to make these in quantity.

● The building of parallel and multiple-processor computer architectures.

● The software skills to develop intelligent databases, or expert systems, and improved methods of computer operation which are more user friendly;

● The basic software methodologies which underpin the new generation of computers, which treat the machine as a problem-solver rather than number cruncher;

● And the basic skills of logic programming, such as being able to program in recognizably "human" logic instead of binary machine code.

And with little desire to answer detailed questions, a spokesman for the academy's foreign relations department in Moscow confirmed that the third computing plan was very similar to research into the fifth generation. The Russians reckon that they can keep the present, fourth generation of computers now used in the West - they have little choice as very few of these appear to be in everyday use in socialist countries.

He said that side-stepping the American embargo was one aim of the third computing plan - "we think that we can become self-sufficient in these technologies". Ultimately, this plan might prove to be the most significant, he added, bringing the Soviet Union into the world market.

In the past, the Russians have merely been catching up - now they intend to draw level with Western technology. The first computing plan, from 1974, saw them claim their own "ES" mainframes, or "megacomputers", and "SM" minicomputers - both in fact copied from the IBM 360 and the DEC PDP 11 machines respectively.

The spokesman claimed that, unlike the other fifth generation research programmes, the Moscow Academy's was over-seeing civil, not military work. He also said that tentative first steps had already been taken towards collaboration with certain Western companies and organizations on fifth generation work.

For the past 18 months delegates from the Moscow Academy have scouted out the state of research in the eight members of the CMEA that agreed to work together. Independently it is known that they visited a Hungarian team this spring.

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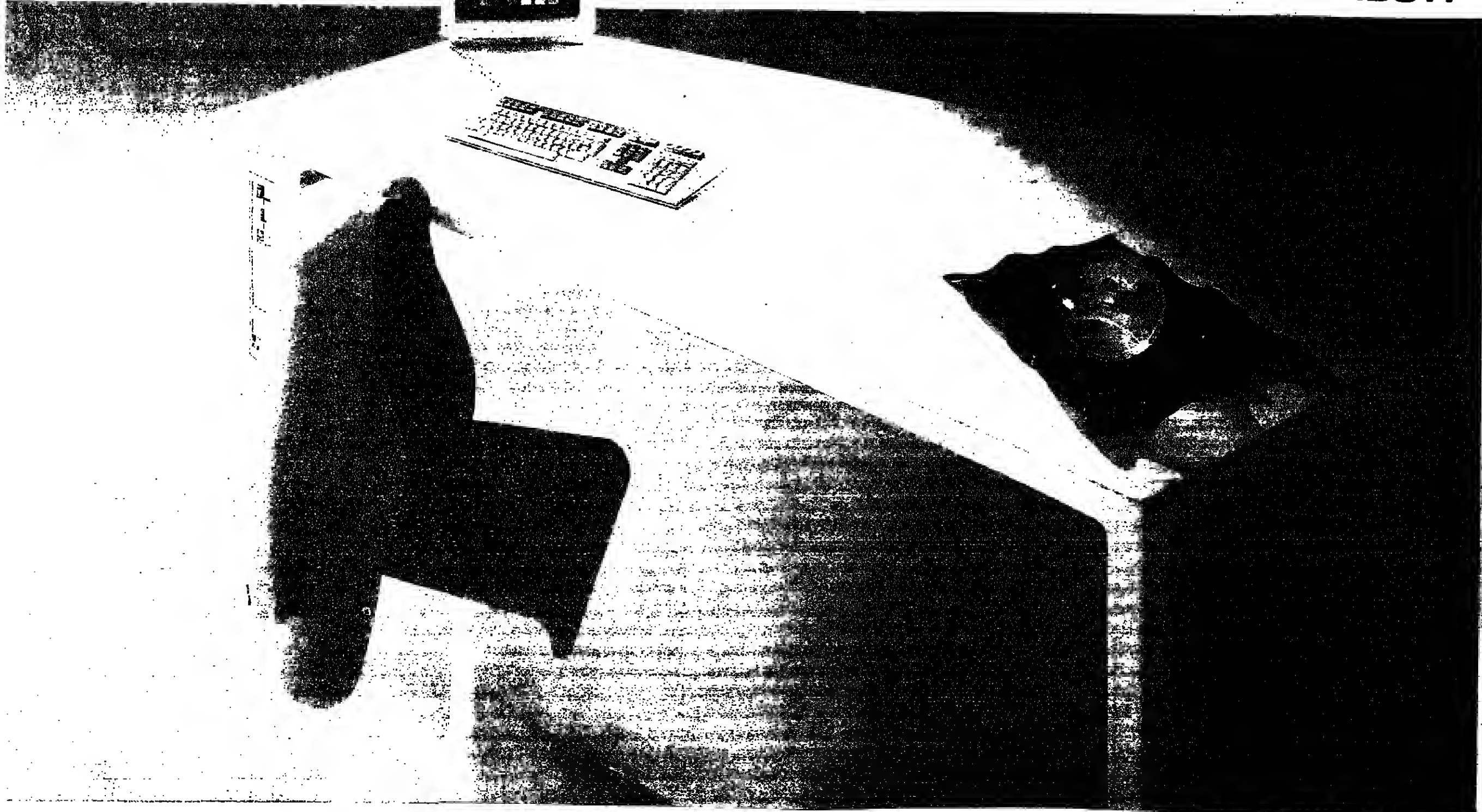
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Attractions that keep the staff on their toes

By Frank Brown

The present worldwide shortage of skilled software and hardware development engineers could help change people's ideas of what constitutes acceptable working conditions.

Even in the United States, the number of job vacancies outstrips the people qualified to fill them by almost three to one. This shortage, which is likely to persist for some years, has made poaching and head hunting of key personnel in high-technology commonplace.

Since the loss of key staff in this way can be a serious blow, a number of US companies have taken a hard look at the working environment of their employees, and made it as attractive as possible.

A good example is Mentor Graphics Corp., which produces computer-aided electronic engineering (CAE) workstations that simplify and speed up the design of complex chips.

Mentor's 150 or so employees at its headquarters and development centre in Portland, Oregon, work in a spacious purpose-built complex that has a number of keep-fit facilities which they are encouraged to use during breaks from work as well as in their spare time outside working hours.

The facilities include an exercise room, complete with muscle-building apparatus, showers and jacuzzi, open-air tennis and volleyball courts. They are available for all the workforce, and their families and friends.

Mentor has always pursued a policy of providing a friendly and relaxed working environ-

ment to foster creativity and productivity among its employees, all of whom hold shares in the company.

"Our people are our most valuable asset, therefore they need to work in an atmosphere that motivates them to operate at their best, and to be suitably rewarded for their part in making the company a success," says Tom Bruggere, Mentor's chief executive and one of its founders.

The staff at Portland are certainly motivated. There are no fixed working hours; people

JOB SCENE

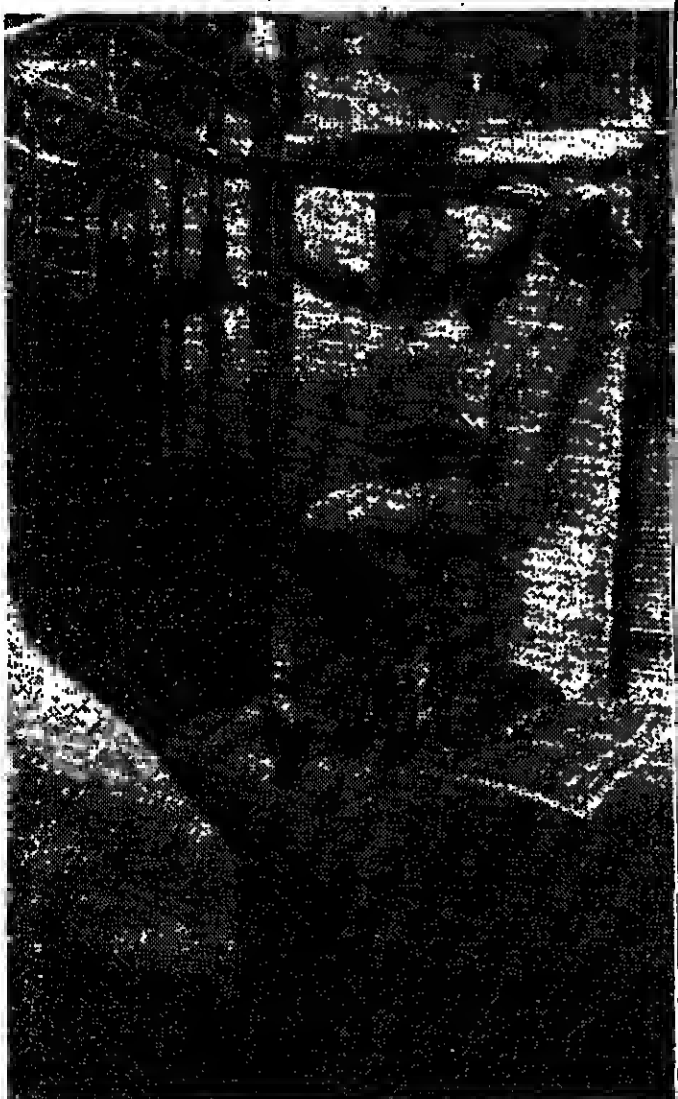
start and finish when they please. Many arrive at six in the morning and continue well into the night, and sometimes through the night when a deadline has to be met.

The company encourages regular breaks throughout the day for recreation, and to discuss ideas.

As a result, morale and productivity are high. Share dividends have risen to the extent that the shares held by a senior engineer yield an amount equivalent to his annual salary.

Salaries in the US are about double those in the UK.

None of the measures carried out by Mentor would be successful if the company implemented them was in the doldrums and showed little sign of growth. As one management expert put it: "The most important thing in keeping people is to be successful."



David Mollenbeier, Mentor's vice-president of finance, in the exercise room with Melinda Pyrch, technical support director

Less 'gee-whizz', please, and more homework

A great deal of "gee-whizz" exclamation goes on in the name of the new technologies. It is new, the exclaimers seem to be saying, it looks smarter than what went before, it enables the old tasks to be done in new and different ways, so anything associated with it must be good and introduced at double speed. One does not, however, need to be a Luddite to see that this does not follow.

The microchip revolution is exciting; it will change the way we do things in industry and in the office for the better, it is important that we are educated about it, but it is also important that it is introduced properly. The launch of British School Technology, the latest educational offering from the Department of Trade and Industry, left the listener wondering how much thought had gone into its planning.

Certainly the press launch misfired. Whatever one thinks of that slow-moving body, the Department of Education and Science, its spokesmen know what they are talking about and, if you do not get a decent answer, you know it is because the men from the ministry don't want to tell you rather than because they cannot. The trouble with the DTI's foray into education is that it is going on in a vacuum.

The aim of British School Technology is fine on the face of it - a national education centre which will take technology into the schools, train the teachers, help the local authority administrators, learn on the examination bodies, and work with firms which want to produce equipment for schools and for export.

The fact that it is expected to

become independent and self-financing is also a good thing - although the idea of a centre set up with public funds to sell its services to the local authorities will not appeal to many.

British education, reflecting the patriotic values of British society, has placed little value traditionally on applied science and technology. Mrs Thatcher's Government is determined with a vengeance that all this will change. Hence the arrival of the little Manpower Services Commission and the Department of Trade and Industry in the cosy world of education.

One cannot object to this in itself. If the DES is unable to fund important national initiatives in schools because of its historic constitutional arrangements with the local authorities, why should our elected representatives not find other ways of bringing much needed change to institutions? They have done this in the Technical and Vocational Education Initiative (TVEI), under which the school curriculum is being much more closely geared to the world of work, and through the DTI's Micros in Schools Scheme, which is putting microcomputers into every school in the country.

British School Technology is the latest, then, in a line of modernization. Where it differs from the earlier initiatives is over the question of control. It is a curriculum and teacher training scheme, yet the DES appears to be totally uninvolved in it. The TVEI, which is also directly concerned with curriculum reform, is by contrast being closely administered by the education system, and in schools, entirely concerned with buying equipment, is in a different category.

All the money for British school technology - £2.5m over four years - is coming from the Manpower Services Commission and the DTI. Mr Robert Dunn, the DES junior minister in charge of schools who was present when the new venture was unveiled, said he was not concerned about the source of its cash. "What matters is the end result," he said. "We don't mind where the money comes from."

Mr Kenneth Baker, the Minister for Industry and Information Technology,

which was introduced in 1980 to produce software and train teachers for the new technology going into schools. It will last six years and more than £20m is being spent.

There were blank expressions from the DTI spokesmen when they were asked about coordination between the two programmes. Presumably they had heard of MEP even if they could not answer the question. It was a point on which they might have been briefed.

It was also noted that Mr Baker talked only in terms of the dearth of young people taking O and A level technology. What about CSE? Many more young people take this rather than O level. It was disturbing too that the DTI people considered the subject of enticing girls to study technology inherently hilarious.

That is an issue which exercises most thoughtful teachers and is a serious problem in many schools. One does not have to be a feminist to bemoan the small number of girls taking craft, design and technology or to appreciate the importance of girls becoming familiar with the new technology. If they do not, they will not be able to compete and we shall all be the poorer.

The BST scheme has modest beginnings. A £2.5m project is small. The centre will be based on four double-decker buses and articulated lorries designed by the Bedfordshire Technology Centre and the National Centre for School Technology at Trent Polytechnic. Most of the money will go on developing new equipment and course materials as well as on pilot examination syllabuses. Local authorities

will pay for the in-service training.

I wish it every success. As Mr Baker says: "The problem is that in the face of rapidly growing interest expressed by schools and local education authorities in introducing technology courses, there are not enough teachers who have been trained to teach the syllabus and local education authorities do not have the facilities or the advice to offer."

It will be interesting to see how many education authorities apply to take part in the scheme. The signs are that there will be no mad rush because councils will have to find teachers to release for training and money for equipment. But if it leads to more children taking O, A and CSE technology then it cannot be deemed a failure. And maybe more universities will recognize the worth of this subject.

It is to be hoped that technology will be taught in ways which stimulate children to learn, not just about the subject but also how to think. Too much of what passes as an introduction to the microcomputer in schools is downright dull, with teachers knowing pitifully little about the functions of the micro.

A computer bus in Berkshire provided to service the schools which I visited and wrote about in Computer Horizons was giving children a heavy dose of "drill and practice" programs. The children liked them because they love anything new which comes with a new gadget. But it was a tragic waste of the new technology - a case perhaps of exclaiming "gee-whizz" without thinking much about how the equipment would be used.

THE WEEK

Lucy Hodges

added smoothly: "Not all good things can come from the DES. We have our own industry unit whose objective is to bring influence to bear on the educational process". Mr Dunn and Mr Baker may be right. The source of the funding may turn out not to matter.

The centre is being run by Mr Geoffrey Shillito, a former teacher who now works at Trent Polytechnic, and Mr Ron Denney, a design and technology inspector with Bedfordshire education service. They should know what they are doing, and if they can establish "an independent, self-financing, national education centre" the question of control will be irrelevant.

but it was disturbing at the launch of the new centre that so little thought appeared to have been given to how it would fit in with the DES-funded Microelectronics Education Programme. This is an important scheme

Burroughs goes solo on business micros

By David Guest

Burroughs Machines has broken ranks in the attack on the IBM PC's dominance of business microcomputers. Rather than follow the pack by producing a system that takes on the IBM PC on its own ground Burroughs has struck out alone. Its B25, launched last week, is produced under licence from the US manufacturer Conver-

geot Technologies and is intended to carry personal computing a stage further than anything in IBM's catalogue. A leading supplier of mainframe computers, Burroughs has a tradition of independence and innovation. It could be said to have invented networking long before IBM registered the term Systems Network Architecture (which left Burroughs with the less resonant Burroughs Network Architecture) and its plans for the B25 indicate a readiness to take advantage of IBM's apparent inability to link PCs.

It sees the B25 being used in clusters, where six users will have access to individual workstations while sharing storage resources, printers and communications facilities. Through another new product, the XE 520 shared resource processor, the group can be expanded to 32.

To compensate for the penalties that it incurs by not producing an IBM clone - the loss of access to a reservoir of software - Burroughs has complemented a number of operating systems on the B25. There is MSDOS, the basis of the IBM PC's own operating system, CP/M-86, a derivative of a widely-used vehicle for business programs, BOS, a gateway to networking, and BTOS, Burroughs own supervisory systems manager.

The B25 itself has a main memory of 256K bytes minimum, a 12-inch monochrome or 15-inch colour screen, floppy disks of 630 bytes capacity and optional 10Mb fixed disks. The smallest model costs £2,100 - deliveries will begin next month.

The BTOS operating system will permit various users to cluster B25s to perform different tasks at the same time, but perhaps more importantly it paves the way for users to link their clusters to the resources of Burroughs or IBM mainframe systems.

The programs developed for earlier Burroughs small systems will run on the B25 and the company has high hopes that the industry-specific software that exists will attract users outside the present community of Burroughs owners. A spokesman for the company in the US said that it had already had "great success" selling the unit to non-Burroughs mainframe users, but declined to be more specific.

Its approach with the B25 is to offer its existing customers another option and to attract new customers through the combination of communications, software resources, and the ability to expand - in this and to the style of the B25 as a networked micro, it resembles the ICL's DRS range of micros attacks IBM in much the same way, so far it shows no signs of laying the giant low but, according to the company, it is a steady money earner.

The crunch could come as IBM develops its personal computer line. One survey already puts the amount of new software designed for the IBM PC at 85 per cent of the total output of software products at this level. This is a formidable barrier to ignore. As the PC's operating systems move away from its root in MSDOS, anything other than complete emulation could prove to be a blind alley.

Pressures to work alone

From John Earle, Rome

Trade unions must collaborate internationally to prevent the new computer-based technologies, with their pressures for people to work at home, from being used by management to weaken the union movement, says Charles Levinson. He is secretary-general of the International Federation of Chemical, Energy and General Workers Unions and was speaking at a conference of women trade unionists in Rome.

Employers liked contract labour because it provided a cheaper form of manpower. People naturally liked to be with people, and disliked being isolated in a home or cubbyhole, but he was not optimistic, in the present political climate of the industrialized countries, about the prospects of legislative action.

The route lay in negotiating with central management to get minimum conditions imposed in collective agreements under which they could farm out work. Mr Levinson added that a great deal of work with new technologies was done by women, for which three or four weeks' training could be sufficient. Unions must guard against what he called "a degradation of skills".

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UK events

IBM Computer Exhibition, Brookbury Court, 100, Corn Street, London WC2, May 22-24. Apple 14, Fulham Centre, South, May 24-26. Software '84, Earl Court, London, SW5, June 6-7. Office Automation Show, London Barbican, June 5-7. Othello Computer Conference & Exhibition, Seaton Hotel, Aberdeen, June 5-7. 5th International Computer Show, Newport Hotel, London, W8, June 7-9.



'Read it again. The computer's getting the upgrade - not us'

A computer system able to communicate in both English and Welsh is being installed by the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth. It will be the most advanced integrated on-line system to be located at a single library in the UK, and represents the first use in this country of the new library software developed by Microdata Information Systems.

The installation has been made possible by government funding of £1.12 million, which will meet the costs of the first five years of the library's automation project. Details of more than two million books, pamphlets, newspapers and periodicals are now being fed into the system. As one of the Copyright Libraries, the National Library of Wales receives 100 new titles and similar number of periodicals each week, and the computer will also cope with these. By the end of the first five years, the data base is expected to hold a million records.

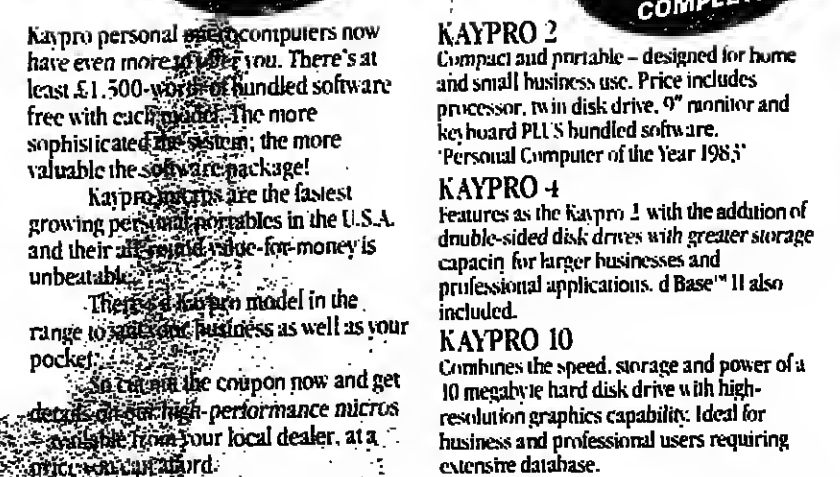
By hooking up to a new shared resource controller, users of the IBM Personal Computer will be able to tap the powerful word processing software developed for stand-alone systems. At the same time, word processing users will have access to a wide range of computing capabilities.

This coming together of general purpose computer and WP workstation has been engineered by

Overseas

IBM User Show, Wembley, London, June 12-13. Computer Fair, Earl Court, June 14-17. Computer North, Belle Vue, Manchester, June 18-21. National Conference & Exhibition on Computers in Personnel, Royal Lancaster Hotel, London, June 25-26. Microelectronics Education Programme, London, June 27-29.

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A SPECIAL REPORT

A look at the
acceptance and
proliferation
of word
processors

Word processing

In the beginning was the word processor. Then came the personal computer - and work changed.

The phrase "word processing" burst upon us in 1964 to describe an idea, generally attributed to IBM, for new ways of handling the most basic set of activities in the office which keep all organizations ticking over: composing, revising, printing and filing of letters, reports and other routine written material.

The trick was to make the electric typewriter part of a desk which enabled the works to be stored electronically on magnetic tapes in what today would be a cumbersome procedure.

Word processing was designed to increase the productivity of the secretary and the typing pool. But, fast and accurate typing was only the beginning. Now, 20 years on, a word processor can create charts and graphs, provide a communications link between other word processors in the same building or to distant sites over public telephone lines, and provide an information storage and retrieval system. It has established itself as the cornerstone of the electronic office.

Indeed, explaining the ramifications of today's range of word processing systems IBM reported in one of its publications that "at a recent national office equipment exhibition, we estimated buyers had to walk up to two and half miles to see all the word processing equipment available."

Word processors fall into two broad categories: special purpose machines and micros. The first are so called because they are computers exploited specifically for word processing; the micro is the personal computer with word processing software. By the same token, the computer power of the special purpose equipment that was dedicated exclusively to word processing is similarly being used for other administrative work.

The latest market trend shows a decisive shift away from the stand-alone word processing machine towards the personal computer with word processing packages. Neil Farmer of Butler Cox and Partners, the research and consultancy firm, said that the UK word processing market is now reasonably mature, worth £200m a year, but "it's growth



is slowing to about nine per cent a year. Personal computer sales are growing by 37 per cent a year - and word processing software packages sales is showing a big expansion, currently worth £25m a year. When you consider how relatively cheap the software is, that means hundreds of word processing packages are being sold."

One estimate is that IBM has 17 per cent of the word processing sales revenue, ICL 16 per cent, Wang 15 per cent and most other suppliers under 5 per cent. One-third of word processing equipment spending is on electronic typewriters.

The enthusiasts for personal computers maintain that if you are a manager or a professional worker, a writer or secretary, a salesman or a self-employed businessman, student or Member of Parliament - or if for any other reason you spend more

than two hours a week at the typewriter - then you need a word processor.

One of the largest studies, surveying 4,000 offices, made some time ago by SRI International, the market research firm, showed that in all but special cases, such as legal and insurance departments, there were few easily measured direct cost savings from any form of office automation including word processing.

Indirect advantages from word processing were the less tangible benefits such as progressing work more smoothly and submitting tenders more rapidly. Nevertheless, once an individual is given the chance to use a word processor, he or she becomes a fervent convert.

A resurgence of brand loyalty has also appeared. As a prerequisite to taking a new job, some executive secretaries specify the type of word processor

which they will need. Not surprisingly, therefore, manufacturers are going to increasing lengths to woo the ultimate user of the equipment.

A fascinating example was provided by Digital Equipment, which allowed three of its executive secretaries in America to give public seminars on word processing. More than 1,000 secretaries showed up.

But the real surge in productivity will come when managers share that same enthusiasm. In a lot of organizations only something like 6 per cent of the office costs is covered by secretarial work, compared with just under 50 per cent for the managers. The race is on to make information processing equipment attractive to the executive who thinks working on a keyboard is beneath him.

Rita Marshall

This demanding little machine

Just when you are getting to know and love your word processor, you love what a demanding little machine it is. Just as a car is greedy for petrol and oil, the word processor never seems to stop adding up the hills for all sorts of "extras".

For a start, it is not much good without a letter-quality printer - one that is compatible with your particular machine. Don't take all that propaganda about the "paper-less office" too seriously just yet. People like paper.

Everybody may be able to look at the words on the screen, make changes and corrections until everything is perfect. But, even if it is an internal memo which could stay quite happily in the memory file most people still seem to want it "confirmed" on a good old-fashioned piece of paper. And, anyway, a mail shot for potential customers is no good unless all those customers have compatible machines to receive it by electronic mail.

So, the only way you are going to save on the paper bills, is to be very firm and only print out the final version of the document.

The word processor needs what seems like a never-ending supply of discs; and, if it is not a stand-alone machine it will want all the latest software packages; it scoops up dirt and dust which can only be spring-cleaned away by specialised cleaning materials and its "wardrobe" is not complete without boxes to store the discs safely.

The printer can be even more difficult than the word processor or microcomputer. It races through ribbons; can often need a wide range of print-wheels - and together with its soul-mate, the word processor - can run up expensive, and unexpected, bills.

The good news is that as the market in word processors and printers grows - so does the accessory supply industry. It is now a very keen and competitive market and shopping around and buying in bulk can keep the costs down.

For the word processor the most regular demand is for those floppy discs. Depending on the make, model, density and size, prices vary between £2.50 to £1.98.

Because the amount of words that can be stored seems enormous when you start using the machine, you think a pack of 10 discs will last for months. Not true. Words seem to breed words; people will always be finding new ways to use the machine; a new internal telephone list which can be updated regularly; a new mailing list and letter, a new staff bulletin - all because the machine makes it so easy.

And any sensible operator will make a copy of the master system disc regularly, and get into the habit of copying every data disc used at the end of every day, to be prepared for the disaster day which always comes - when the original disc is damaged or develops a fault.

Discs are delicate creatures. You cannot keep them in a drawer, along with the pen, clips or sand-wiches - so you are going to need at least two storage boxes (one for the duplicates) which are strong and can be securely locked. These, depending on the size and quality, can cost from around £10-£14 (for 40 discs) or more than £30 for 80 discs.

Reducing the risk of damage

One of the biggest enemies of the word processor and the printer is dust and dirt. Many a valuable word processor has been totally disabled because dirt has gathered in the drive, the microcomputer, or even the keyboard. It can mean you have lost valuable material, wasted all the hours it took to key it in - and, if you don't have a service contract with your supplier, it can take weeks to get the machine repaired and cost you several hundreds of pounds.

It's not just a case of squirting any old aerosol polish around it - you are going to need specially produced air blasting moisture-free sprays to keep the dust down (and an anti-static spray for the screen applied with fine free cloth). The printer, too, sucks in all the dust and dirt it can find and needs regular clean-ups.

The lifeblood of the printer is the ribbon, and it needs regular transfusions. It depends on the continued on page 27

The big word saver

The true art - and cost saving - of word processing is being able to use the same words over and over again in a variety of different shapes and form. One of the biggest advances of recent years is the way that the need for the printed word has become a catalyst for dramatic new developments in printing technology.

Typewriting and typesetting technologies have been developing in parallel. The microcomputer means that now they are converging and the text on a word processor magnetic disc can be used to operate an electronic typesetting machine.

The implications are profound for the efficiency and cost control of large-scale print production for commercial and professional organizations. The driving force is the money which can be saved by keying the original text only once.

It has been estimated that transferring text from wordprocessor to photostetter, with the typesetter putting the commands into the customer's raw text, could bring savings of 10-30 per cent. If the codes for conversion to the photostetter are put in by the customer there could be 40-60 per cent savings.

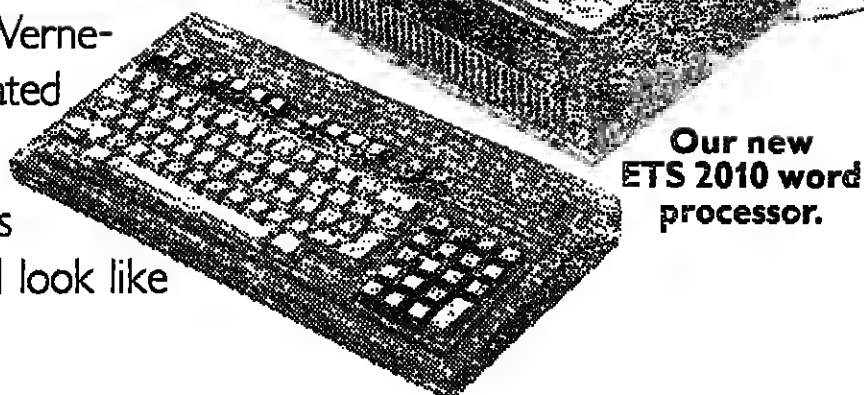
It means that a company can produce, say, its annual report, print it out on the office printer for internal use, consign the disc to a typesetting firm for a glossy version for external distribution - and also use extracts from the original material for future promotional material or stored for up-dating the next year.

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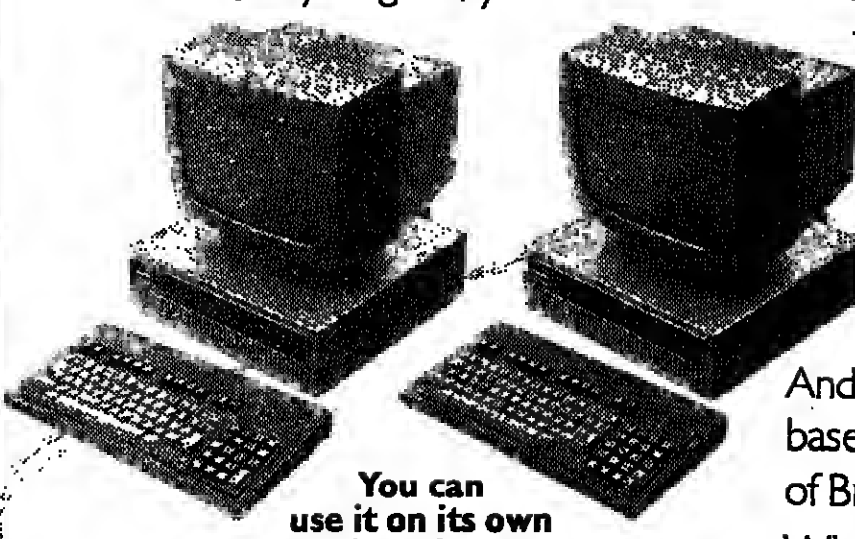
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olivetti

And link it to a central memory store.



You can use it on its own or in a cluster.

This is our processor speaking

THE WORD TRAINING

Turn into the e

CAE

Are you sitting comfortably?

Ergonomics, that beautifully-sounding discipline which is also called "fixing the job to the worker", moved into the office from the factory in a big way with the arrival of video terminals and the other trappings of office automation.

Occupational psychologists and furniture designers were called upon to determine whether the expected stress and fatigue of working with the new machines was real or imagined. Their conclusions fall into four broad categories: seating, lighting, acoustics and safety.

The question of seating goes further than simply rearranging furniture. One of the most experienced international groups in this field, the HUSAT Research Group at Loughborough University, have measured visual fatigue, postural fatigue and occupational stress. More importantly, they have done something about it. They have produced methods by which the impact of an individual item of new equipment or almost every aspect of a re-organised office can be measured.

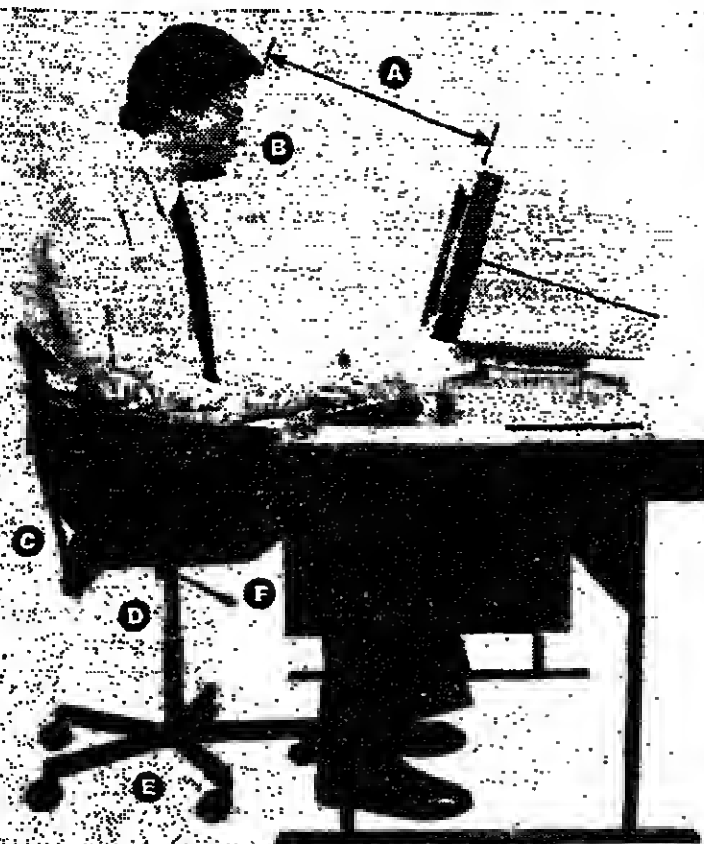
A study of the attitudes and experiences of word processor operators conducted for the Allied Marks organisation produced a list of specific complaints about headaches, backaches and eye fatigue attributed to the sedentary position, glaring screens and the monotony of the work. The reasons for discomfort were attributed to bad sitting of the equipment, the lighting, desk of chair and the source documents.

Sparring table difference between a word processor to whom a word is available and an individual working full-time on machines. "All too often," the study concludes, "it seems that the screen is placed on a desk in an existing office and the operator has to 'get on with it'. The desk must be designed for those working on VDUs. The desks must be set at the correct height for the keyboard, screen, printer and source documents to be reached and used by an individual operator. It naturally follows that the desks, and screens be adjustable.

"Another consideration is the lighting. This can be reflecting off the screen, or the wall covering, and be causing eye strain and stress. Many manu-

Some approximate distances and requirements aimed at achieving a comfortable working posture.

A 350-600mm (700max)
B eyes cast down at angle of 15-20° approx
C adjustable backrest
D adjustable height of seat pan (ideally 340-520mm)
E stable base
F adjustment possible from seated position
G support for forearms/hands if needed
H approximately 90° clearance for thighs



facturers offer lighting products which 'help to eliminate glare' and 'help to reduce the risks of eye strain'.

	Secretaries (per cent)	Production Operators (per cent)
Eye Fatigue	68	51
Headache	68	51
Backache	71	59

Forty per cent of the working population of the UK work in an office and spend one-third of their time there. It is, therefore, becoming more and more a focus of study as a place where people suffer a variety of "environmental accidents". So furniture is one of the biggest growth areas in the office equipment market, and it is now worth at least £100 million a year.

But a far bigger area is the "systems sector" which produces furniture to provide for the working needs of each person in the office. According to the National Equipment Business Survey, the annual sales value could be £50 million but some manufacturers put the figure higher.

One of the most obvious trends is for increased adjustability, particularly of chairs and

work stations (desks) which hold video display terminals. But why is adjustability so important? Sitting generally requires less muscular exertion than standing, but it significantly increases spinal pressures. The constrained postures that frequently characterize video terminal operations accentuate these stresses. If the worker is given the opportunity to stretch, move or stand, these pressures are relieved.

The design of office furniture has traditionally been guided by the need to support correct operator sitting postures and to allow - even - encourage - alterations of such postures.

While there is controversy over what constitutes a good posture, it is well known that certain postures are undesirable. The recommended textbook sitting posture has been that of head up, torso erect, with an outward curve of the upper spine. This represents an S-shaped spinal configuration, with the upper arms in a vertical position and the lower arms horizontal, so the elbows are at a 90-degree angle. The feet are on the floor with the knees bent at 90-degrees.

However, researchers observe

that "it is very rare to find an operator whose posture corresponds to the recommendations." The majority of operators assume a posture similar to a car-driver's stance. In this position the trunk is leaning backwards, the neck is bent forward, shoulders are held high, the arms are extended forward, with forearms and hands often high.

Recent laboratory investigations have established that correctly adjusted video display unit work stations can significantly increase the performance levels of operators. Up to 25 per cent greater productivity was achieved by a group that adjusted their (adjustable) furniture and used an anti-glare filter, over a group with poor adjustment and screen glare.

These results may be difficult to translate directly to general office work because the test workers were paid according to the amount of error-free output they produced, unlike real-life office workers. Nevertheless, the benefits of adjustable work stations are more than just suggestive.

Pearce Wright
Science Editor

This is your processor speaking

An innovation that will drastically change the office will be the speech-input word processor, according to James Martin, one of the international pundits on the development of computers and telecommunications systems. He believes the revolution will happen when a manager and a secretary see the words they speak appearing on the video screen.

When the machine misunderstands anything that is said, the text would be adjusted manually to add necessary words or nouns, and to edit the text. In his latest book, *Information Systems Manager*, he says there will be little need for many of today's human secretarial functions.

The practical versions of Martin's idea are already being tested in what Mr Ray Anderson, development director for Torch Computers, describes as a "natural evolution of networks of machines which are coming into operation now."

The emphasis today is on good communications. Sitting in the middle is the word



processor - a machine capable not only of storing vital information but of putting it on view on a number of terminals at the same time. In some cases, several terminals are linked to one central computer, so that everybody in the company who is involved can see the text at the same time - hold, in effect, an instant electronic decision-making conference, or it can be passed along the line of command as the text is improved and refined.

Networking of terminals means that office can "speak"

to office; office to factory; factory to despatch; company to company (if they have compatible machines). It is this facility which perhaps has changed the working structures in many organizations more than anything.

Networking also means that material can be "brought in" from outside, giving access to information on Prestel, or any other information data base. This material can then be extracted, tailored for a specific report, and join the data base on the home word processor - again for repetitive use.

But in the next generation of systems, the machines will speak. It will work in two ways to meet the provisions that Mr Anderson's group are interested in of combining text and voice, and text and graphics. In one mode, a manager will mark passages of a report in a way which is comparable to manually highlighting paragraphs with coloured marker pens. However, passages marked on the word processing files will trigger the machine to speak and say "attention. These

figures show urgent action is needed."

The other mode is the one in which the operator can speak to the machine which then translates those words into the digital form for storing as text. That enables a manager or secretary to work from other things which prevent using the keyboard.

An even more ambitious development is the exchange of any form of picture, blueprint or document within the word processing network. A glimpse of this has already been provided by IBM with a machine called Scanmaster. It has been described as plugging the last hole in office automation.

One of the more frustrating aspects of word processing is the ability to despatch a report electronically in minutes - while important illustrative material can take hours or days to arrive at the same destination. A document transmitter can automatically feed and scan a page, and process it digitally, in less than a minute. A receiver prints it out simultaneously. This is very different from facsimile transmission; in this technology the machine is re-creating - from a computer memory an exact replica of the original and, furthermore, it can reproduce that original at any time from a digital version stored on tapes and discs in a computerised library.

PW

Demanding machine

continued from page 26

printer, the make and the type, but it seems when you are really turning out the words, that one is forever fixing in a new ribbon. Again, they vary in price and quality from make to make, but an average ribbon, which lasts for about several thousands of words will cost between £1.70 and £2.60.

Print wheels for a daisy wheel printer, come in plastic or metal and many different types. They are great little survivors and if they are kept clean, will last a long time. But most people need different types for different purposes - some, for example, do not have a 2 sign - or you may need a backup supply for foreign languages or italics. The plastic variety cost about £5-6; metal wheels cost around £30.

Printers also lose a lot of friends around an office because they are so noisy. You can get acoustic hoods, which again vary in price, depending on the model, size and make. But perhaps the biggest outlay is the service contract for the word processor and the printer. Most companies charge 10 or 11 per cent of the purchase price every year - and for this they guarantee to rush an expert to you within 24 hours, except that, at bank holiday times which usually the case for one or other of the machines to develop the silent symptoms of sickness.

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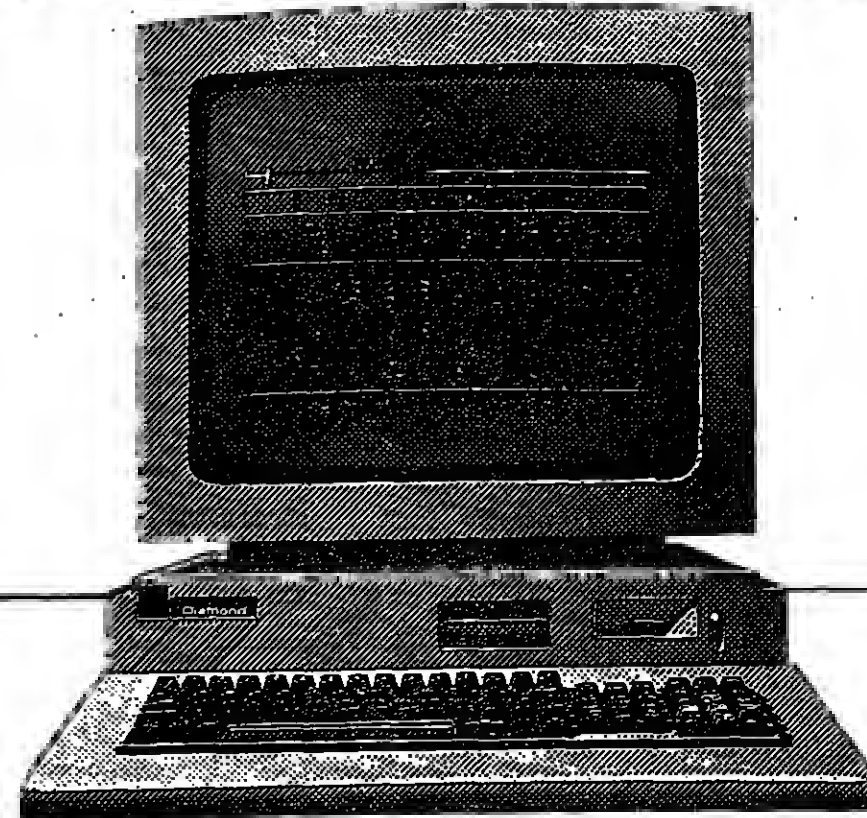
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olive

Don't call the secretary, the answer is here

The day is coming when a manager without a micro will be like an airline pilot without radar. To take the metaphor further, it (the micro) can prevent the executive taking decisions blind, as well as saving time.

The development of new machines has not been the sole impetus behind word processing and the avalanche of office automation ideas which followed. Because the office had changed little in 50 years but the running costs had become an increasingly important factor in business economics, the urge to improve productivity became an increasingly sharp one.

Factory costs have been controlled by productivity schemes which attempt to balance the mix of people and machines that will get the highest output of production. Word processing was an equivalent attempt to put more machine power at the fingers of the worker. However, the argument that the substitution of machine power for human labour increases productivity is not as straightforward in the office as in the factory. The quality control from word processing — accuracy and consistent layout of pages — is the most obvious advantage.

Individual authors have no difficulty in measuring any increased productivity from word processing. In offices, the technology works best when it reorganises the ways in which work is done. For instance, when it is part of a work station available to a manager then it is possible for that individual to draft a report, create and insert charts and tables, revise and print the document without leaving the desk, or waiting for work to come back from other

people, like secretaries or staff analysts who once would have been involved.

Suppliers of personal computer hardware and software have woken up to the fact that their immediate, most profitable market is to court the business executive with a word processor. Hitherto, the appeal to the manager had been centred on the benefits of the financial spreadsheet.

A shift in emphasis is demonstrated in developments such as the latest software package from the Peachtree Software group. Its new product is designed to run on IBM's PCXT and its imitators, and on Apple's Macintosh. The package is called Decision Manager, a word processing-centred system that incorporates graphics and file-handling, and it combines financial spreadsheet analysis as well.

Problems with executives

But not all managers have waited for the manufacturers to catch up with their needs. Some companies have discovered that executives are using personal computers at work, entirely independently of the firm's central computer facilities. While the initiative of the entrepreneur can only be admitted, it can also pose problems. These personal computers may be bought as a petty-cash item and a sophisticated system gradually evolved as the lone manager builds up a base. So long as the individual remains with the company there may be few problems arising from this activity. But, as a survey by the Economic Intelli-

gence Unit pointed out, serious difficulties arise when an executive leaves the company. Even though the data may be left behind, the key to interpreting it has gone because it has been built on one person's assumptions, which may not be known by anyone else in the organization.

Furthermore, when the company decides to invest in a network of work stations based on personal computers for its senior staff, as a growing number of firms undoubtedly will, then the troubles of incompatibility arise.

The personal computer has great potential as a powerful managerial tool. It offers executives quicker and better ways of analysing information understanding data through graphics, and hence, an ability to work more effectively. Yet it can be expensive, it can break down, and learning to use it can take up a lot of managerial time.

However, the micro work station can speed up managerial tasks such as reading, writing and analysis, and it carries a potential benefit in saving time, which has been estimated at about 20 per cent or one day a week. On the salary of somebody earning over £20,000 a year that soon adds up to a useful rise in productivity.

Many indirect savings can soon push that improvement much higher. For example, when a work station is connected to a network so that some of the normal "face-to-face" meetings can be conducted via the micro, another 5-10 per cent in time can be picked up. Similarly, secretaries can leave messages and work for their bosses to handle at out-of-office hours, to achieve further gains.

PW

Putting lawyers in the pink

Pink ribbon is to lawyers what red tape is to bureaucrats. But whereas those bundles of cream, bonded paper containing anything from the title deeds of property to the papers for a murder trial have been neatly tied for centuries, there is nothing traditional about the way many of those legal dossiers are now being prepared.

Word processing and the law go together like strawberries and cream. Law firms generate words — millions of them a year. But compared with 10 years ago the amount of information a lawyer has to sift in preparing a case has increased enormously and some of that law is difficult to find; statutes, subordinate legislation and case law increase apparently at an exponential rate.

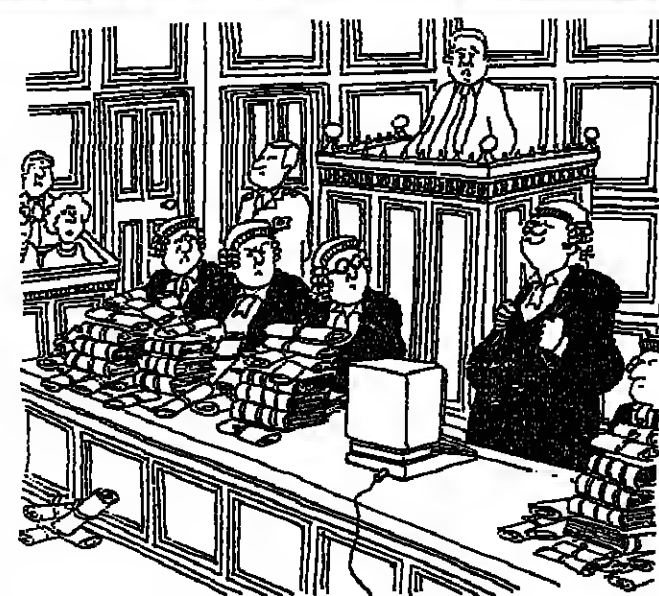
Large numbers of new journals and new case reports have appeared, partly to explain new laws. The principal areas of growth include EEC Law, Intellectual Property, Industrial and Employment Law, Financial and Taxation laws grow more complex.

But it's not just that "the law" has grown. There is more paper, more records and more

information to be collected, stored retrieved and examined. In short, lawyers are caught up in the so-called information explosion as much as everyone else.

It is against that background that the SLOP report (the National Study of Lawyers and Office Technology) was made by The National Law Library and Coopers & Lybrand, management consultants.

The report is a range of case studies, covering in particular the small to medium size partnership of various mixtures of practice, suggesting how solicitors can benefit from the use of technology in the office. Lawyers are described as operating in an "information inten-



sive context" and needing access to a huge variety of material quickly, efficiently and at bearable cost.

This study is one of a series for which the Government had given up to half the cost so that groups of professionals and managers with common interests can plan the evolution of

office automation.

For legal work, electronic document handling has several benefits. For instance, a micro-computer-based word processor can be connected over telephone lines to recently created legal data bases. The range of equipment and applications starting with word processing

can include computer-based time recording and accounting, telex, facsimile, photocopiers, memory typewriters, telephone exchanges and personal mini-computers.

The report is divided into three sections. The first outlines why solicitors need technology in the office and how far it is being used at present. Attention is focussed on profit margins, the changing needs of clients and the erosion of the monopoly of solicitors on conveyancing.

A section is included about when and when not to invest in different types of equipment. Statistical data collected by the project team as a result of the 20 case studies reveal that within this sample legal fees generated for each fee-earning member of the practice vary between a low of £18.461 and a high of £62,500.

The percentage of legal fees spent on office technology varies between 0.3 and 3.5 per cent.

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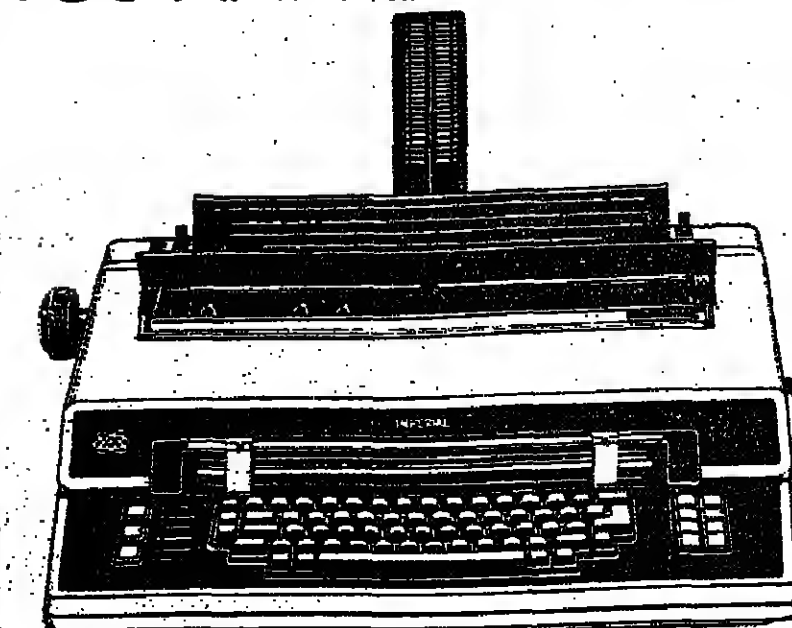
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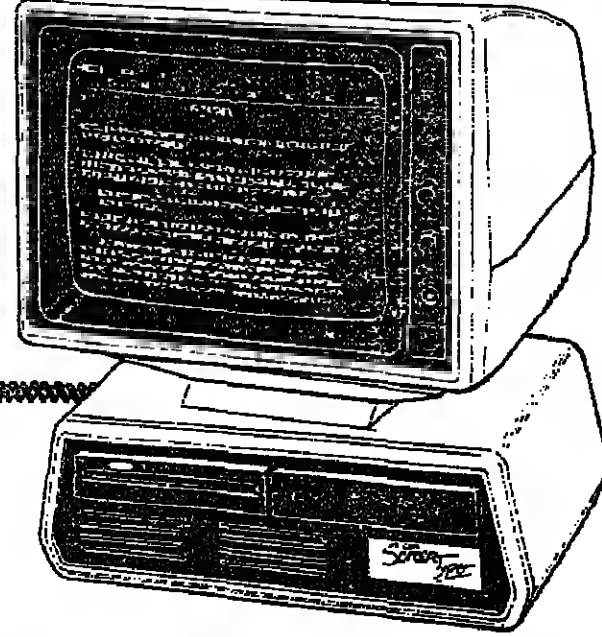
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E. Sutton, Ref: 17256/T. Male or female candidates should telephone in confidence for a Personal History Form 01-734 6852. Sutherland House, 5/6 Argyl Street, LONDON, W1E 6EZ.

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(a) The first appointment will be for a Solicitor admitted at least three years who has had a wide commercial training and experience, some of which will have included entertainment law. A 'City' background and/or employment outside private practice would be a distinct advantage.

(b) The second post will suit a more recently qualified Solicitor whose articles and subsequent work experience included substantial and broadly based commercial training, some of which will have been in the entertainment field.

Successful applicants for each appointment must possess good drafting ability and a desire to use it and must be prepared for extended working hours and occasional overseas travel.

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(CC/PAD 6 - 10) £9,018-£10,296
at Folkestone and Hythe Petty Sessions Division

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also on page 34

Gulf states seek intervention of Security Council

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

The six-power Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) said yesterday that it would seek an urgent meeting of the United Nations Security Council on the threat to shipping in the Gulf. The GCC Secretary-General, Shaikh Abdullah Bishara, said the meeting was likely to take place on Thursday evening. The situation was very grave, he said.

The GCC is also planning a special sea lane for tankers along the south-western coastline of the Gulf, where they can be better protected against air attacks, it was disclosed last night.

At the same time Kuwait, well known for its neutral stance on East-West affairs, made known that it would not object to foreign military intervention in the region and criticized the United States for its "passivity" in the Gulf war.

But this was swiftly followed by the sharpest warning yet to Washington from the Iranian President, Ayatollah Khomeini, who said that if the Americans stepped in, they would receive "a slap far harder than the one they got in Lebanon".

News of the GCC shipping lane plan emerged as a queue of tankers began to build up at the mouth of the Gulf, fearful of entering after last week's air raids by Iraq and Iran in which six ships were hit and one sunk. A technical committee of the council, which includes Saudi

Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, is working on the projected "corridor" which, by channelling tankers near to the coastline, should place them under the protection of sea and air defences.

Channelling of the Americans for staying out of things for so long came from Shaikh Ali Khalifa al-Sabah, Kuwait's Oil Minister, while the comments on foreign intervention were made by the Foreign Minister, Shaikh Sabah al-Ahmed Al-Sabah who was interviewed by a Beirut newspaper. Shaikh Sabah said Kuwait was not entitled to object to action by other powers because the Gulf was an international waterway.

Despite continuing tension in the region, however, the threat of military confrontation between the big powers seemed to have receded last night as attempts continued to find a diplomatic solution.

Whitehall sources confirmed that senior officials from the 19 EEC partners had met to discuss the crisis at the end of last week, and a British team had also flown to Washington for consultations.

Britain has contingency plans which include at some stage making use of the two Royal Navy warships, Glasgow and Charybdis, cruising in the Indian Ocean, if only in collaboration with French and American forces.

Gulf developments, page 6

Invention in full flower at Chelsea



A rose by another name: Above, left, the three great, great grand-daughters of the store founder, Gordon Selfridge, at the Chelsea Flower show yesterday with the rose "Selfridge" which celebrates the store's seventy-fifth anniversary. Above, right, a "horse" made of ice plants



Seeds of time: A "Victorian garden" and, right, the carnivorous Trumpet Pitcher Plant (*Sarracenia*) (Photographs: Brian Harris, report, page 16)



Prior hints at his return to backbench

Continued from page 1

day's interview was therefore being taken as an indication that Mr Prior neither wished to be pushed, nor to jump - rather that he preferred for a dignified exit.

Certainly, he will not be short of things to do on the backbenches, joining Mr Edward Heath, Mr Francis Pym, Sir Ian Gilmour and other backbench wets would give him the opportunity to put arguments which have long been silenced by collective cabinet responsibility.

Mr Prior, who is 56, also has extensive, and lucrative agricultural interests at Brampton, in Suffolk, and Queenwood Farm, in Hampshire. In Opposition, he was a director of United Biscuits (Holding) Ltd, the Norwich Union Advisory Board, Avon Cosmetics Ltd, and the IDC Group, as well as parliamentary consultant to the House of Lords.

Meanwhile, yesterday's interview suggests that political reaction and initiatives are being stalled in spite of the recent new Ireland Forum report. Conservative and Opposition MPs will have an opportunity to probe on that score when Mr Prior faces Commons questions on Thursday, before he attends a meeting of the Tory backbench committee on Northern Ireland.

Mr Prior, MP for Waveney, said in his interview with BBC Radio Norfolk: "That it may well be that the Prime Minister would say to him: 'Well look, Jim, you have done long enough and I'd like to bring in some new people'."

"Or it might even be that I might say to Mrs Thatcher: 'I think I've had a good run, you'll want to bring in some new people, I'm not going to stand in your way'."

Mr Prior said of his Northern Ireland appointment: "I did not want to leave the economic scene and the centre of the government. Therefore, I did not want to go to Northern Ireland."

"But I must admit that I have had a very good time there, and have been very hospitably and reasonably received."

● BELFAST: Mr Prior's comments raise the question that he might already have tried but failed to persuade Mrs Thatcher to launch an initiative in response to the new Ireland Forum and by publicly admitting that he can do little more he will be portrayed as a lame duck minister (Richard Ford writes).

Tactical vote opposed

Continued from page 1

Mr Kinnoch said that Britain's future membership of the EEC under a Labour Government would depend on its ability to cut the burden of agricultural spending, reduce unemployment and increase investment.

Explaining why Labour had retained withdrawal as a "constitutional option", he said: "A Labour Government could not be expected to sit idly by if it was not possible to secure reforms that prevented the imposition of huge food bills and the constant outflow of jobs and investment."

But he added that after what would be 15 years of membership, Britain's trade and economic relationships would be very different from what they were in 1973 and Labour would have to calculate at the time

where the advantage lay for the British membership.

Mrs Barbara Castle, the leader of the Labour MEPs, said that Mrs Thatcher would not reach a settlement on the budget before June 14 because she was going to do a sell-out and "we will find that the great Boadicea battling for Britain" has once again capitulated to the interests of the agricultural industry.

Mr Kinnoch said that Mrs Thatcher had failed to get a reform of the budget, agreed to a 20 per cent increase in farm prices and failed to get the rebate.

And she has not even had the common sense or the strength of the conviction to hold back our contributions. Her table-thumping act goes on but no one - least of all the other EEC governments - find it convincing or impressive," Mr Kinnoch added.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

The Queen visits the Royal Regiment of Artillery and the Royal Green Jackets in the Federal Republic of Germany. Departure Heathrow Airport, 2.45.

Princess Margaret, as President of the Girl Guides Association, attends the Annual General Meeting at Commonwealth Headquarters, 11.40; and at the Mansion House, 2.25.

The Duke of Gloucester visits Warwickshire College of Agriculture at Moreton Morrell, 11.20; and afterwards re-opens Stoneleigh Abbey, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, 2.22.

Prince and Princess Michael of Kent attend a Gala Performance of *Olegin*, in aid of the Festival Ballet Development Fund, at the London Coliseum, 7.30.

New exhibitions

Flowers of Four Centuries: The Fitzwilliam Museum, Adelaide Gal-

lery, Trumpington St, Cambridge; Tues to Sat 10 to 5; Sun 2.15 to 5, closed Mon; (ends July 11).

North West Heritage exhibition, The Building Centre, 12-13 Portland Street, Manchester, Mon to Fri 9 to 5, (ends May 30).

Last chance to see

Eye for India: work by four English and Indian photographers. National Museum of Photography, Princes View, Bradford; Tues to Sat 12 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 5, closed Mon (ends May 22).

Exhibitions to progress

Paintings and tapestries by John Bellamy, Macrair Art Gallery, Rozelle Park, Ayr; Mon to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, (ends June 6).

"Imaginations": paintings and drawings, City Museum, Broad St, Hereford; Tues to Fri 10 to 6, Thurs 10 to 5, (ends June 2).

Exhibition by Harry Snook, "Artists' Choice", Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, Birmingham; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, (ends June 10).

Work on the folklore and folkways of the Western Isles, John L. Campbell, Margaret Fay Shaw and Frances Collinson, National Library of Scotland, The Mound, Edinburgh; Mon to Fri 7.30 to 5, Sat 9.30 to 1, closed Sun (ends May 31).

Works by members of the Bloomsbury Group on loan from the Royal West of England Academy, Wiltshire Street, Wiltshire; Tues to Sat 11 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, closed Sun and Mon (ends May 31).

Contemporary Women Artists: Scottish Gallery, 94 George St, Edinburgh; Mon to Fri 9 to 5.30, Sat 9 to 1, closed Sun - ends May 30.

Contemporary decorated ceramics: The Granary, The Wharf, Newbury; Mon to Sat 10 to 6, Sun 2 to 5, (ends May 19).

Music

Organ recital by Ronald Frost, St. Ann's Church, Manchester, 12.45.

Organ recital by Simon Lindley, Leeds Parish Church, 7.30.

Organ recital by Timothy Albrecht, Oundle Parish Church, Peterborough, 7.45.

Concert by the Guildhall String Ensemble, Whitworth Art Gallery, Whitworth Park, Manchester, 7.30.

Concert by pupils of Perth High School, Perth Festival of the Arts, St John's Kirk of Perth, 12.30.

Concert by the Ladies Choir of the University of Missouri, Rochester Cathedral, 6.30.

Talks and lectures

Ships and Bristol Fashion, by Dr. Richard Hill, The Reception Room, Wills Memorial Building, Bristol University, 5.15.

Raw Materials by Dr. Bunyan, Royal Scottish Museum, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, 11.

Chelsea Flower Show

The Chelsea Flower Show opens tomorrow at the Royal Hospital Grounds, Chelsea. Opening times and admission charges are: Tomorrow 9 to 3.30, (£5); 3.30 to 5, (£7); Thursday 9 to 3.30, (£7); 3.30 to 5, (£5); Friday 9 to 5, (£5). Parking facilities are available at Battersea Park. The nearest Underground station is Stone Square.

TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending May 13:

1 Coronation Street (Wed) Granada, 13.65m

2 The Price is Right Central, 11.65m

3 Coronation Street (Thurs) Granada, 11.65m

4 Coronation Street (Fri) Granada, 11.65m

5 That's My Boy Yorkshire, 10.50m

6 It's a Mad Mad Mad World Granada, 10.50m

7 The Queen of Spades, 10.45m

8 Coronation Street (Sat) Granada, 10.45m

9 Coronation Street (Sun) Granada, 10.45m

10 Coronation Street (Mon) Granada, 10.45m

11 Coronation Street (Tue) Granada, 10.45m

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55 Coronation Street (Thurs) Granada, 10.45m

Roads

London and South-east: A4: Delays to London-bound traffic at Talgarth Rd at junction North End Rd. A41: Edgware Way, Mill Hill, one lane each way W of A1 intersection. A22: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A23: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A24: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A25: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A26: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A27: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A28: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A29: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A30: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A31: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A32: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A33: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A34: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A35: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A36: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A37: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A38: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A39: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A40: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A41: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A42: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A43: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A44: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A45: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A46: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A47: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A48: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A49: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A50: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A51: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A52: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A53: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A54: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A55: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A56: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A57: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A58: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A59: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A60: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A61: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A62: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A63: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A64: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A65: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A66: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A67: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A68: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A69: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A70: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A71: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A72: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A73: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A74: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A75: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A76: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A77: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A78: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A79: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A80: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A81: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A82: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A83: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A84: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A85: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A86: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A87: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A88: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A89: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A90: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A91: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A92: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A93: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A94: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A95: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A96: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A97: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A98: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A99: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey. A100: Roadworks at Uxbridge, Surrey.

Midlands: M1: Junction 22, contraflow. M1: Junction 24 to 25, lane closures. M1: Junction 25 to 26, contraflow. A45: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A46: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A47: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A48: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A49: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A50: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A51: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A52: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A53: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A54: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A55: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A56: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A57: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A58: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A59: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A60: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A61: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A62: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A63: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A64: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A65: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A66: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A67: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A68: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A69: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A70: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A71: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A72: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A73: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A74: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A75: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A76: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A77: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A78: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A79: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A80: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A81: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A82: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A83: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A84: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A85: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A86: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A87: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A88: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A89: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A90: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A91: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A92: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A93: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A94: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A95: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A96: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A97: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A98: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A99: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow. A100: Northampton to Daventry at Kilsnigby, contraflow.

North: A57: Delays at junction of Regent Rd/Combs St, Salford, two way traffic. A57S: Delays at Epton St, Bolton Rd, Gladstone Rd, Farnworth. A660: Island alterations at junction of Blenheim Walk and Blackman Lane, Leeds.

Wales and the west: A4: Delays at Gloucester Rd, Bath. A38: Delays at Spur Rd, northbound carriageway, Beaufort. A470: Temporary signals at Merthyr to Brecon at Nant-ddu.

Scotland: One lane only at Palmerston Place, N. Glasgow St. Edinburgh. A737: Ferguslie, E of Fulbar Rd, Paisley, both carriageway outside lane closures. A7: Delays at Canonbie bypass, construction.

Information supplied by the A.A.

Anniversaries

Births: William Surgeon, electrical engineer, Winton, Lancashire, 1783; Richard Wagner, Leipzig, 1813; Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Edinburgh, 1859.

Deaths: Constantine the Great, Roman Emperor 312-337; Nicomedia (Emt. Turkey), 337; Maria Edgeworth, Edgeworthstown, Ireland, 1849; Alessandro Manzoni, poet, novelist and patriot, Milan, 1873; Victor Hugo, Paris, 1885; Augusta Gregory, Lady Gregory, playwright, poet and director of the Abbey Theatre, Dublin, Coole Park, Co. Wick, 1935.

The papers

The Daily Star says that Russia's international posture steadily hardens under President Chernenko. In the few months since he succeeded to power, the Soviet Union has pulled out of the Olympic Games, rejected military proposals for reduced Western spending, toughened its attitude to dissidents and claimed down on Moscow peace groups.

It is fashionable in some quarters in this country to cast President Reagan in the role of international villain and to see America as just as dangerous if not more so - than Russia.

How foolish. Imagine the future in the peace movements if it had been Reagan, not Ushakov, making such an announcement. The response of Konstantin Chernenko is proving even more mean and menacing than that of Yuri Andropov and we shrug this off as our peril.

Parliament today

Commons 12.30: Local Government (Interim Provisions) Bill, completion of committee stage.

Lords 12.30: London Regional Transport Bill, committee third day.

Weather forecast

A trough of low pressure will move W across S districts of Britain.

6am to midnight

London, S E, Central S, SW England, E, Central, W, Midlands, Channel Islands, S Wales, Cloudy, rain, heavy at times, wind NE fresh to strong, max temp 16C (61F).

E Central, N, NE England, Cloudy, rain at first, becoming brighter, showery; wind NE fresh to strong, max temp 15C (59F).

N Wales, N W England, Lake District, late of rain, heavy at times, brighter, drier later, wind NE fresh to strong, max temp 16C (61F).

SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, rain, a little rain at first, wind NE moderate, max temp 14C (57F).

Argyll, N W Scotland, Northern Ireland, Mostly dry, sunny intervals, wind NE moderate, warm, max temp 14C (57F).

Little change, cool in the E, rather cold in the W.

SEA PASSAGE: S North Sea, Straits of Dover, SW strong and locally gale at first, backing and decreasing, rain, heavy at times, wind NE fresh to strong, max temp 16C (61F).

SW passage, S North Sea, Straits of Dover, SW strong and locally gale at first, backing and decreasing, rain, heavy at times, wind NE fresh to strong, max temp 16C (61F).

SW passage, S North Sea